UXBRIDGE
YEAR BY YEAR

1727—1927

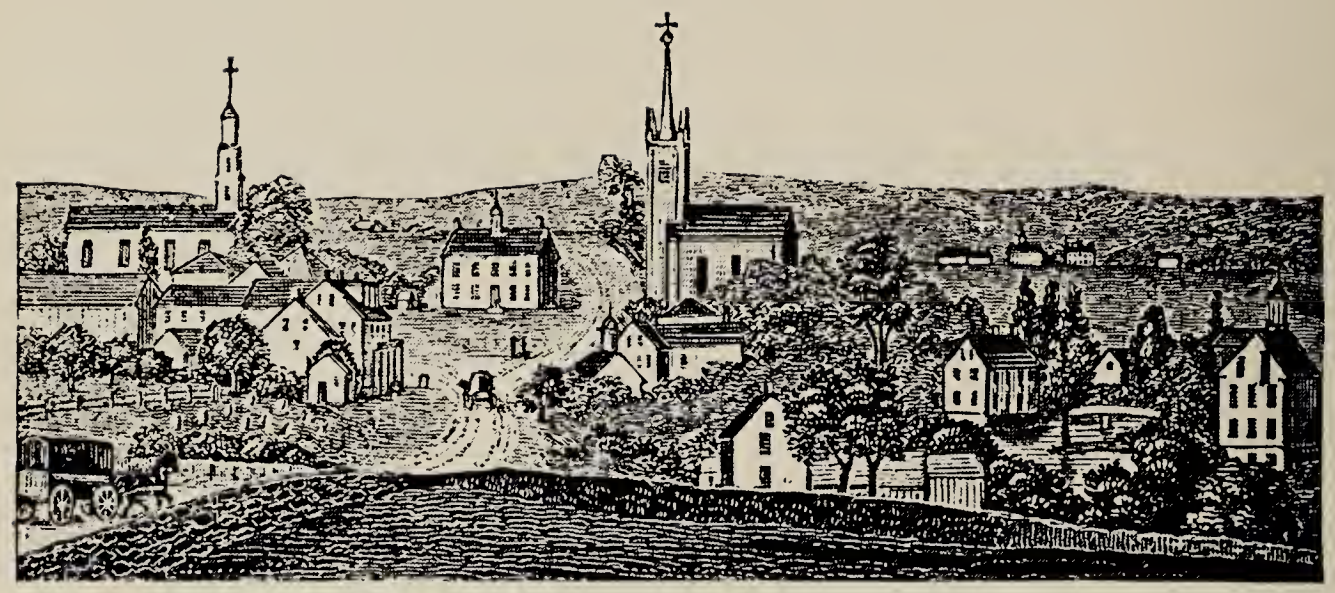
Gc
974.402
Uxbs

Gc
974.402
Uxls
1192561

M. L.

GENEALOGY COLLECTION

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
3 1833 01105 4308



An early view of Uxbridge *From Barber's Historical Collections*

UXBRIDGE CENTER, 1839

UXBRIDGE CENTER, 1844

UXBRIDGE YEAR BY YEAR

1727-1927

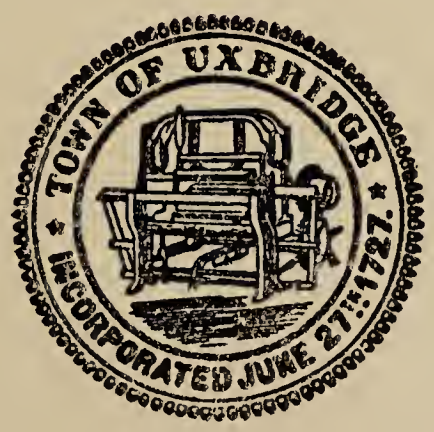
Compiled by

BEATRICE PUTNAM SPRAGUE

Photographed by

RALPH HENRY ALTON

In Commemoration of the
Two Hundredth Anniversary of the Incorporation of
Uxbridge, Massachusetts



E. L. FREEMAN COMPANY
WOONSOCKET, R. I.
1927

1192561

"He who knows nothing of the past remains in a state of perpetual childhood."

—Cicero.

To . . . .

The many friends who have assisted the compilation by additions, corrections, and suggestions.

THE PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

ROLLIN H. N. BLANCHARD

WILLIAM J. BRADY

DR. WILLIAM L. JOHNSON

CHARLES A. ROOT

MARY H. SAYLES

RODNEY H. SCOTT

AUGUSTUS C. SEAGRAVE

ARTHUR WHEELOCK

UXBRIDGE YEAR BY YEAR

1727-1927

A two hundredth anniversary seems a fitting time to look back upon the past and to gather into an orderly sequence the events that have marked the years. As during the last months, such a survey has been taken, the amazing truth of Thoreau's statement that "all events which make the annals of the nations are but shadows of our private experience" has been apparent. Here in our small Town, through the last centuries, has been enacted a miniature United States history. A brief summary of some of the significant periods will show that while the Town has been thus closely woven into the warp and woof of its country, yet there has been developed definite characteristics that make the Uxbridge we celebrate.

Our Indian period came while the land was yet Mendon. Then converts of John Eliot's religious pilgrimage through southeastern New England lived at Ironstone, a band of "Praying Indians". Without doubt some of these converts, along with other Nipmucks, joined in a raid on Mendon, a bloody incident of King Philip's War. A War, which along with small pox, brought by white men, reduced the number of Indians to such an extent that the Town, after its incorporation, had no Indian troubles.

Such freedom from an outside foe, permitted the new Town to begin at once civic planning. The fertile plains in the south and the Hartford turnpike in the north had attracted the earliest settlers, but the wise builders of 1727 saw the possibilities of the valley through which the Mumford ran. By this river, they erected the first meeting house and near by set apart a "Lott" for the minister, the Rev. Nathan Webb. Ebenezer Read gave his pasture for a common and John Farnum, his orchard for a pond. A school master was hired for the children. A road across the Blackstone over Taft's bridge and north to the Hartford turnpike was built to bring the people to church and to the grist mill on the Mumford. After these civic duties, marked by a generosity always found in town annals, were done, the citizens were free to work upon those natural problems that confronted all colonists: homes, food and clothing.

With such thrift and industry did these hardy men and women pursue their self appointed task of town and home building, that by the time Uxbridge issued its Declaration of Independence, there was prosperity. During the war years, money was contributed with the greatest liberality, while the home industry of making clothing had developed to such an extent that not only the Town soldiers were provided with shirts, breeches, stockings, and shoes, sent to them by a special messenger, but clothing was sold upon order to the Commonwealth.

Yankee inventions soon began to turn the trend of the people from farming to manufacturing. As early as Revolu-

tionary days, Richard Mowry at his farm in South Uxbridge was building all the paraphernalia for making woolen, linen, or cotton cloth; machinery which was used in the homes. But in 1810, home work was superseded; both cotton and woolen mills began running. By the "hard times" period of 1837, two cotton and six woolen mills, partially equipped with machinery built in Uxbridge, had been established. Only men versed in the intricacies of such manufacturing can tell how, over well nigh insurmountable obstacles, the risky ventures were financed and the cloth, acceptable to buyers trained in English standards, was produced.

While the manufacturers were developing their factories, they were also engaged with the rest of the community—except the isolated Friends—in settling religious differences; differences in belief that led in 1831 to a division of the First Congregational Society and its Church in Christ into two societies. These new congregations each at once built, ardent to uphold the true faith, imposing churches. Facing the common, these graceful edifices are still the architectural pride of the Town—daily reminders that the forefathers ever made their best offerings to the worship of God. This early schism also indicated the many religious sects that the community was to harbor. Only a diversity of tenets was to satisfy the people of Uxbridge.

By the early forties, there had begun to come to the Town new settlers; immigrants driven out of oppressed, famine stricken Ireland. Uxbridge was glad of their help. Farmers wanted hired men. The Providence and Worcester railroad

had to be built. The growing mills, recovering from a financial crisis, needed more hands. The Irish went to work with a will and, marvelous to relate, not only subsisted themselves but, joining with others of their race in the United States, sent back to their kindred in Ireland for the years 1848 to 1851 nearly fifteen million dollars. The poor people of the new country did not forget the poorer relatives of the old country. Is it strange that in their chosen Town the descendants of these industrious immigrants have prospered?

The Irish brought from the old country the Roman Catholic faith. By 1855, St. Mary's parish had been formed, a large church had been erected, and a burying-ground consecrated. Immigrants from Canada and other old world countries later made this the largest parish of the Town; strong enough to erect in 1926, a beautiful stone Gothic church, fitted with the rich ecclesiastic gifts of devoted parishioners.

When the Civil War came, the main business of Uxbridge was, not farming, but manufacturing. Woolen machinery had been improved and the product of the factories perfected. While absent men and boys endured hardship and fighting at the front, the home Town ran its mills from six to six, in summer heat and winter storm, owners and operatives alike toiling without rest to clothe the armies. The Union soldiers were not ragged. The veterans, who so unobtrusively returned, caring little for hero worship, found what they sought, a peaceful place to earn a decent living. Well these war wise men knew that the southern taunt, which called the condition

of the northern laborers worse than that of the slaves, was false. The tired fighters had faith in the words of Lincoln, "The hired laborer of today labors on his own account today, and will hire others to labor for him tomorrow." Words that Uxbridge history has proved a prophetic truth. Men who have worked in the mills as children have lived to run the manufactories.

In the two decades that followed the Rebellion, a new sense of civic pride began to arise. The hard work of the war years had left money in the hands of the citizens: money to be spent in the Town, for Uxbridge's prosperity has never been undermined by absentee mill owners. Soon the Town Hall raised its spire high as the church steeples. Pretentious houses were erected. Enterprising men projected a water-works. Kerosene lamps, adjusted to burn a set number of hours, lighted the flats and then illumined with a yellow circle other dark thoroughfares. A newspaper moved its seat of publication from Douglas to Uxbridge, where it chronicled for the next forty years the events of each week. The public library was opened. The annual cattle show brought to the church sheds, cattle and to the Common, crowds. Hotel Wilson made its sensational appearance. Society balls filled the roads on appointed evenings with hacks in which sat ladies in bustled gowns, escorted by beaux in dress suits. But none of these manifestations of prosperity had as deep effect upon the healthy life of the community as did the shorter labor laws with which Massachusetts blazed the trail of humanitarian labor legislation. The mill hands had given

during the experimental years of the cotton and woolen industry their utmost strength. Now a period began when such day laborers could have leisure to enjoy profits.

The nineties were not gay in Uxbridge. A free trade law blighted the mills. The overseers of the poor were besieged with appeals for help. A miniature Coxey's army walked the streets by day and crowded by night the lockup. The first night watchman had to be employed. A water famine led to destructive fires and to malaria, with the consequent loss of property, health, and lives. In spite of all these handicaps, the installation of modern improvements kept pace with the age. The telephone, the electric light, and the electric railway strung their wires along the streets. A new high school was built. The Thayer Memorial Building was given. A Civil War Monument graced the common. While the social life—that vital spark in any community—was well served by bicycles, picnics, and sleigh riding.

Then came the years which saw the completion of the new water works, the result of an untiring search by efficient men. Citizens hourly reap the reward of their patient labor. Now, too, began to develop the power stations which have been such important adjuncts in Town business. As for the mills, this was a period when they were going through a process of readjustment, discounting losses, preparing under protection, for an active future.

By the 1910's farming had begun to have a fresh impetus, thanks to the use of a method once recommended to a small farmer by that genial humorist, Samuel F. Scott:

"How is your farm getting along?" Mr. Scott, asked a neighbor.

"Not very well," was the blue reply.

"Do you know, I can tell you just what to do about that."

"What's that?" asked the farmer, eager for such wise advice.

"Put up a nice little woolen mill. That will take care of your farm all right."

Under such tender guardianship, outlying farms, fitted with all modern appliances, began to flourish. A second factor that also helped agriculture was the arrival of immigrants, especially the Dutch, who bought on Williams Hill, the old farms of the first settlers and brought the land back to productivity. The Poles, too, bought farms, but that nationality combined their agriculture with work in the factories, rivaling the French as mill hands.

The entrance of the United States into the World War found Uxbridge busy. The Granite Company was completing a $250,000 government contract for stone to wall Ellis Island. The Worcester Suburban Electric Company was rapidly expanding its service. Most of the mills were running on full time; one working upon French blue army cloth. Ladies, not unaware of Europe torn by shot and shell, had for some months been preparing emergency dressings. At once upon the Declaration of War, men enlisting began to leave, cloth contracts to arrive. The Town became the scene of feverish activity. Workers vied with each in giving the maximum of

service. The sum total of all the efforts, aside from the food produced and the Red Cross work, showed 250 men under the colors, a recorded amount of $1,735,300 invested and given, and 3,125,175 yards of army cloth woven. One company alone had an output of 1,445,175 yards. The forefathers had sown the seeds of the textile business along the river banks. The tender sprouts of their plantings, nurtured with care, had grown to maturity. The mills could speedily and well fill any call for cloth.

As the years since the World War have been prosperous, Uxbridge approaches its anniversary hale and hearty—glad from a comfortable present to look back upon an honorable past. To blaze the trail for some future real historian, who will make that past live again, I am offering as my birthday gift these simple chronicles.

UXBRIDGE YEAR BY YEAR

1709

(1) The Tafts Bridge Over the Blackstone

Robert Taft and his five sons, Thomas, Robert, Jr., Joseph, Daniel, and Benjamin were undoubtedly the first of the Mendon pioneers that had extensive holdings of land in the region now Uxbridge. In order to reach their land, the Tafts wished to build a bridge across the Blackstone River. In this year, the Town of Mendon voted "that Mr. (Robert) Taft and his sons should be freed from working at the highways, in case they build a bridge over the 'Great River' to the land on the west side of said river until other men's work come to be proportionable to theirs in working upon the highways." Judge Alphonso Taft writes, "The bridge was built and was probably the first bridge ever built over the river". In 1729, the Tafts built a second bridge, a short distance below the first. This time the town allowed them sixty pounds towards the expense. One of the abutments of this latter bridge still stands.

1727

(2) The Incorporation of Uxbridge

Jun. 27. Uxbridge was incorporated. The Town was then in the County of Suffolk. The Town was probably named from Uxbridge in Middlesex County, England.

(3) The First Meeting House

The act of incorporation provided that "the inhabitants of said Town of Uxbridge do, within the space of two years

from the publication of this act, Erect and finish a suitable House for Publick Worship of God and procure and settle a learned Orthodox Minister of good conversation and make provision for his comfortable support". It was later voted "to sett ye Meeting House within the fence of Eben. Read's pasture, on a place which they have viewed

for and Judg'd convenient."

(4) The First Town Meeting

Jul. 27. The first town meetings were held in the Cornet John Farnum house. The first selectmen were Robert Taft, Jr., Ebenezer Read, Woodland Thompson, and Joseph White. The first town clerk was Edmund Rawson, the first town treasurer, Solomon Wood.

(5) Population

The population at the time of the incorporation is not known.

1728

(6) The Quakers

Mar. 6. The Town voted "not to free the Quakers" from taxation which was to support a religion that sect did not follow.

(7) The Mumford River

The river was first formally mentioned by name at this town meeting. It is related that before there was any settlement here, a man named Mumford was making a journey from Webster to Mendon through the wilderness. It was the spring of the year and the streams were flooded. On arriving at this place, Mr. Mumford attempted to ford the river, but

UXBRIDGE CENTER, 1926

UXBRIDGE CENTER, 1926

the water being deep he was drowned. Soon after this accident two hunters skirting the river bank discovered the body, and as it could not be carried to Mendon, they buried the unfortunate man close to the spot where he was found. As the hunters could obtain no coffin, they improvised one from the bark of a large chestnut tree. Many years after in digging for the cellar of the first hotel, the workmen found Mumford's body encased in its unique casket. From the time of the accident, the river was the Mumford.

(8) Mumford Pond

The town meeting voted that they "accept of Cornet John Farnum's proffer in giving them a piece of land by Mumford's river by ye road to sett a pond on, and stated said place for service".

(9) The Liquor Question

Jul. 8. The Town voted "to procure fifteen gallons of good rum for ye raising of ye meeting house".

(10) The Common

Aug. 15. Ebenezer Read deeded his pasture to the Town for a Common. The record of the deed is in Boston.

1729

(11) The Meeting House

Jan. The meeting house was completed, a structure forty feet in length, thirty-five feet in breadth, and nineteen feet "between joynts".

(12) Town Meeting

May 4. A town meeting was held in the meeting house.

1730

(13) The First Church

Jan. 6. The first church was organized.

1731

(14) The First Minister

Feb. 3. Rev. Nathan Webb, who "continued in faithful service of the Master" until his death in the sixty-sixth year of his age, in March, 1772—a ministry of over forty years—was ordained. The act of incorporation provided "that they set apart a Lott of not less than one hundred acres of Land in some convenient place in said Town near the Meeting House for use of the Ministry". The parsonage which the Rev. Mr. Webb built upon his land was later known as the Dr. Willard house.

(15) Worcester County

Apr. 2. The Town became a part of Worcester County, created upon this date.

1732

(16) Stocks

Mar. 2. The Town voted to provide a pair of stocks "for the benefit of such disorderly persons as might need correctionary and salutary reproof".

(17) The First School Master

The act of incorporation provided that the new town maintain "a schoolmaster to instruct their youth in writing and reading". John Reed, chosen in this year was probably

the first master. The first schools were evidently maintained from land granted by the general court for school purposes. Teachers were paid from one dollar to one dollar and a half weekly. For some twelve years the school was kept in the meeting house or in private houses.

1735

(18) The Town of Upton

A part of the original territory of the Town was incorporated into the Town of Upton.

1737

(19) The Burying-Ground

Mar. 20. The lot of land where now stands the town hall, the grammar school, and the Methodist church was given to the Town by Daniel Taft for a burying-ground. According to the deed he gave the land "for and in consideration of the love and affection I bear ye town of Uxbridge", and "for diverse other valuable considerations moving me hereunto". Previous to the gift of land the lot had been used as a burial place.

1738

(20) The First School House

The Town voted to build a school house.

1746

(21) The Southwick Burying-Ground

The oldest burying-ground was owned by the Southwicks. The first authentic burial there was in this year. Probably

the earliest burials were in the first years of the century. The lot, which has recently been improved by Miss Jenks of Asbury Park, a descendant of the Southwicks, is three-quarters of an acre.

1756

(22) The Schools

The first money appropriated for schools, which was raised by the Town, seems to have come from the tax of this year.

(23) Equal Suffrage

The widow of Josiah Taft was allowed to vote on the question of a requisition for a certain sum of money for colonial purposes. The citizens, with a sturdy sense of justice decided, as her husband's estate was one of the largest, that there should be no taxation without representation. Mrs. Taft's affirmative vote caused the payment of the money.

1759

(24) The Hartford Turnpike

The turnpike was in use at this date as a road from Boston to New Haven, Ct.

(25) The Common

May. A record regarding the gift is at Worcester, Bk. 41, p. 433.

1760

(26)

The Town was divided into school districts, "each district to enjoy the privileges of schooling in proportion to the money raised by them".

1763

(27) The Workhouse

May. The Town voted that "the selectmen should provide a work house and a master for the same and convey all idle persons there providing that they come to want and belong to the town".

1766

(28) The Quaker Meeting House

The first Quaker meeting house was built on a location that was later in the town of Northbridge.

1768

(29) The Simeon Wheelock House

Simeon Wheelock bought the land upon which his home was soon built. Mr. Wheelock lived but three or four years in this home. It was later owned by Elihu Brown, the blacksmith, who planted the large elm tree, probably about 1790. The house is now the D. A. R. chapter house.

1769

(30) The First Post Office

Moses Farnum built his house in South Uxbridge. The first post office was here.

1770

(31) The Friends Meeting House

April. The meeting house in the southern part of the Town was built. Moses Farnum was the first minister.

1771

(32) Uxbridge Land Annexed to Mendon

This year the legislature passed an act for "the setting of John Holbrook and others of Uxbridge with their lands to the South Precinct in Mendon". This land was probably in the southeastern part of the Town near Chestnut Hill.

1772

(33) The Town of Northbridge

July 14. The northern part of the original territory of the Town was incorporated into the town of Northbridge.

1774

(34) The Revolutionary War

July 6. A committee was appointed "to correspond with the committees that now or shall be chosen by any towns in this province for the purpose on any matter that may respect the present difficulty that now or may subsist between Great Britain and North America".

(35) The Revolutionary War

Oct. 26. It was voted in town meeting "to purchase five barrels of powder and as much shot as was proper" and a committee was chosen "to provide for soldiers who may be called to march".

1775

(36) The Revolutionary War

Jan. The Town voted "to carry the resolves of the Continental Congress into execution", and a committee of inspec-

tion was appointed "to see them strictly adhered to in this town".

(37) The Minute Men

Apr. 19. "A muster Roll of the minute Company that marched from Uxbridge in the Alarm on the 19th of April, 1775, Last Past under the command of Capt. Joseph Chapin.

Capt. J. Chapin.
1st Lt. Simeon Wheelock.
2d Lt. Stephen Taft.
Sergt. Aaron Taft.
Sergt. Solomon Wood.
Sergt. Peter Taft.
Corp. David Draper.
Corp. Caleb Farnum.
Private Jesse Morse, Joseph Carpenter, David Wood, Ephraim Spring, Baxter Hall, Peter White, Jacob Taft."

"A Muster Roll of the militia company that marched from Uxbridge in the alarm on the 19th April, 1775, last past under the command of Captain Samuel Read.

Capt. Samuel Read.
1st Lt. Edward Seagrave.
2d Lt. Noah Taft.
Se'g't. Bazaleel Taft.
Se'g't. Dexter Wood.
Se'g't. Abner Taft.
Corporal Jonah Wood.
Privates Noah Keith, Abel Aldrich, Nathaniel Rist."

1775

(38) The First Library

George Southwick managed the "Uxbridge Social and Instructive Library, 1775" at his store in "Quaker City". This library was discontinued about 1812.

1776

(39) The Declaration of Independence

The Town voted affirmatively "To see if the town will vote if the Honorable Congress should for the safety of the United Colonies Declare themselves Independent of the Kingdom of Great Britain, whether they will solemnly Engage with their lives and fortunes to support them in the Mesure".

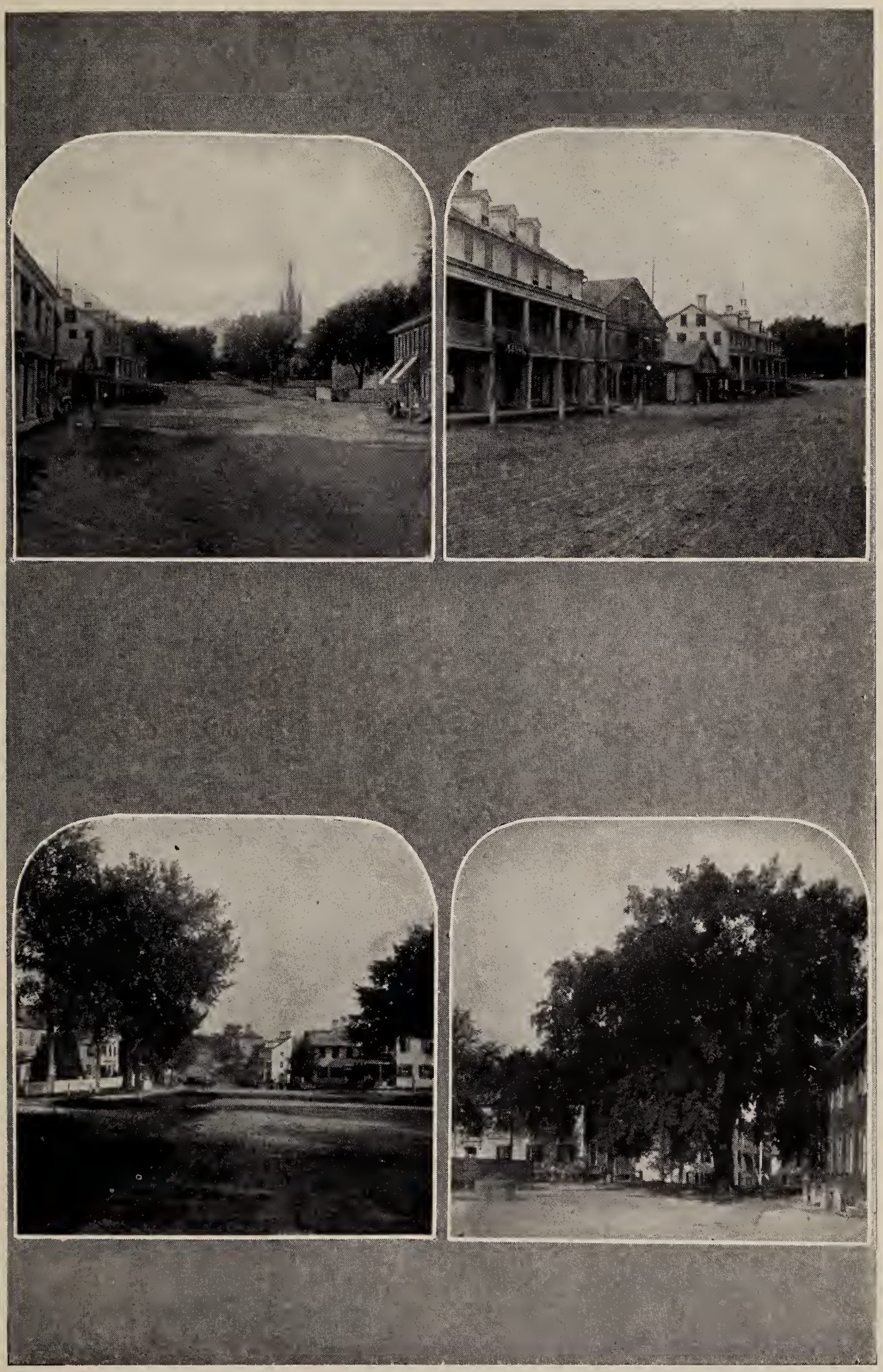
(40) Revolutionary Soldiers

July. The Town voted "to grant six pounds to each person who shall Enlist in behalf of this town to go to Canada, or the Northern Department, agreeable to the late act".

1777

(41) The Tories

May. The Town chose "by written votes," Seth Read, "to procure and Lay before the court Evidence that may be had of the Inimical disposition of any inhabitant of this town towards this or any of the United States who shall be charged by the freeholders and other Inhabitants of said town, or if their residence within this State is lookt upon to be dangerous to the public peace and safety".



UXBRIDGE CENTER, 1874

1778

(42) Clothing for the Soldiers

Mar. In March it was voted, "to send to the soldiers now in actual service in the Continental Army in behalf of the town of Uxbridge for three years, or during the war, two shirts, one pair of breaches, two pair of stockings and one pair of shoes", and a committee was chosen "to procure s'd cloathing and *a man to carry it to them*".

(43) Money for the Revolutionary War

During the year two thousand pounds were raised "to provide for the soldiers in the Continental Army"; and in the same year "men were sent to Rhode Island and men as Guards to Rutland".

(44) Textile Machinery

Richard Mowry, a workman skillful in many trades, built hand looms for weaving, the warping bars and all the paraphernalia needful for making woolen, linen, or cotton cloth.

1779

(45) Substitutes for the Revolutionary War

Jan. The warrant for the town meeting contained this article: "To see what sum of money the Town will give, or Allow to such Persons as have Provided a man to do a turn for them in the Continental Service for three years or during the War".

(46) Money for the Revolutionary War

Apr. Two thousand five hundred pounds were appropriated "to carry on the Continental War".

(47) Hired Soldiers

June. The town voted "that the committee for Hireing Soldiers for s'd Town be Directed to Engage to Such Soldiers as they may hereafter Procure to Engage in the present war in consequence of orders Received for that purpose (for the Hire of such Soldiers) Either Continental Currency, or the produce of the land Raised amongst us, Acting Deferentionarily in Engaging either Money or produce, as to the sum of Money, or quantity of produce, and at what price, as they with such soldiers may agree".

(48) Clothing for the Soldiers

Nathan Tyler and the other selectmen of Uxbridge procured for the use of the Commonwealth thirty-nine shirts, thirty-nine pairs of shoes, thirty-seven pairs of hose. For which they were allowed by the committee on discount six hundred and sixty-two pounds. Forty pounds was allowed for the selectmen's trouble and for transportation.

(49) Corn for the Soldiers

Joseph Taft had a grist mill in Happy Hollow where corn was ground for the Continental Army. Some of its foundation still stands.

1780

(50) Money for the Revolutionary War

One thousand pounds were raised to supply the army with beef.

1781

(51) Money for the Revolutionary War

Jan. Twenty-three thousand pounds (old English money) were raised to supply the army with beef.

Aug. 28. One hundred and fifty pounds (hard money) were raised for the supply of beef called for by the general court of Massachusetts.

(52) Revolutionary Soldiers

"As near as can be estimated Uxbridge sent 250 soldiers to serve in the Continental army."

1786

(53) Shay's Rebellion

The Town sent a company of forty-seven men under Capt. Seagrave to assist in breaking up Shay's ill-organized army of discontents. Simeon Wheelock was with the company. On the icy streets of Springfield his horse slipped and fell. The rider died of the injuries received. His oldest son Royal, returned home alone bringing his father's knapsack and musket.

Dr. Samuel Willard took an active part with the insurgents in the rebellion. After the defeat of the rebels, the Doctor was attainted, could not practice openly in Uxbridge, and was obliged to flee with his wife and child to Rhode Island. The wife of Col. Whitney sent for him to visit her secretly. The Doctor came by night and was hidden until his patient released him, when he again went after dark to Rhode Island. His situation caused him great anxiety. At length a pardon was extended to all Shay's adherents, enabling Dr. Willard

to return to his home and practice. *The Dr. Willard House,* by Mrs. Helen C. Hanson tells more about the Doctor.

1788

(54) A Grammar School

The first appropriation was made for a grammar school.

1789

(55) President Washington's Visit

Nov. President George Washington spent the night at the Taft tavern on the Hartford turnpike.

"If we cannot show the hatchet
That cut the cherry tree
Nor the lie he could not tell
He was so good you see—

We can show the same old mansion
That kept him over night
The room he slept in and the sign
That hung so plain in sight."

The Old Taft Tavern by Sarah F. Taft describes Washington's visit.

1795

(56) A New Burying-Ground

Apr. 13. The oldest part of the present Prospect Hill Cemetery, one and one half acres, was conveyed to the Town by Jonathan Farnum for twenty pounds.

1796

(57) The School Districts

The Town was divided into eleven school districts.

(58) The Common

There is a record of the gift of the Common at the town hall.

(59) The Horse Sheds

The number of horse sheds required was large. The sheds were back of the meeting house and on the north side as far as the old blacksmith shop.

1797

(60) Separation of Church and Town

The First Congregational Society, composed of ninety men resident in the Town, was incorporated; henceforth there was no connection with the town government. Bazaleel Taft, Esq. became the first church moderator.

(61) School Houses

School houses were built in the several districts.

1798

(62) Probate Court

"Probate court in the County of Worcester will be held the fourth Tuesday in May and November, at the house of Mr. Wood, inn-holder in Uxbridge." Notice in an old almanac.

1800

(63) A Public House

A public house was standing on the site of the present Inn. In excavating for the cellar of this early hostelry the body of Mumford, for whom the river was named, was found.

1805

(64) The Uxbridge Musical Sodality

The sodality organized with Wm. Bruce, president and Smith Capron, secretary.

"Preamble—To cultivate friendship, refine the heart and improve the understanding are the dignified employments of rational beings. . . . Sacred music, accompanied with no other incentive than its own, will decline as soon as the fervor of novelty subsides; hence its permanency can only be secured by the formation of a Society." Candidates for admission to this sodality had to pass an examination both as to character and to musical knowledge. Fines were imposed for absence (twelve and one half cents) and for tardiness (six and one half cents). "Any member for disorderly conduct, or for interruption of any member when speaking, shall be fined by the president six and a quarter cents for every offence." Unpaid fines led to expulsion. In spite of the rigidity of its rules the Sodality lived fourteen years.

1810

(65) A Post Office

There was a post office in the house of Samuel Read on the Hartford turnpike.

(66) The First Woolen Mill

Daniel Day built his mill, a structure 20x40 feet, two stories high, where he began the manufacture of woolen goods. The mill used the water power of the S. F. Scott and Sons in Elmdale. This was the first venture of the kind in Uxbridge, the second in the United States. The machinery consisted of a carding machine and a picker for the purpose of carding rolls for home manufacture, built by Artemas Dryden of Holden. In 1811 an addition was constructed where a billy and a jenny with thirty spindles, built by Arthur Scholfield, were placed.

A part of the building was used by Jerry Wheelock, a son-in-law of Daniel Day, for turning bobbins.

Weaving was done at this time, not in the mill, but on hand-looms set up in houses or in shops built for the purpose.

Employees labored in the mills at this date 68 or more hours a week.

(67) The First Cotton Mill

Cotton goods were manufactured in a mill owned by Benjamin Clapp in the village later known as Rogersonville.

1812

(68) The Mail

The mail was carried between Providence and Worcester by Abner Cooper, first on horseback, and then in a one-horse gig, which was later replaced by a two-horse vehicle capable of carrying passengers.

The first real stage line was established by Henry Richardson. *Coaching Days in Uxbridge* by Mrs. Anna C. Sharpe tells about the early roads and stage coaches.

1814

(69) The Rivulet Mill

The mill was built upon the site of the present factory. This was the second attempt to make woolen goods in the Town. Such American manufacturing enterprises were stimulated by the embargo laws of 1807 and the non-intercourse act of the War of 1812—British laws that were rigourously enforced. At this period were sown the seeds that ultimately enabled the United States to become independent of English manufactures.

A writer in the Compendium of June 4, 1901, tells of the pluck these early men must have had to overcome the obstacles in the path of their business ventures. He writes of the first home made machinery and of manufacturers hitching up teams and going to Vermont to buy loads of wool, which raw material they would bring home and turn into the finished products. The fruit of the looms then had to be packed upon sleds or wagons drawn by oxen and taken to Providence, the shipping center of the region.

(70) Woolen Machinery

British law forbade the exportation of any textile machinery or of any plans or drawings. The machinery in the United States was made either by workmen like Samuel Slater, who carried in their minds the necessary details for the construction, or by inventions made in the new land. In our Town, John and George Carpenter were builders of textile machinery. They built a billy and a jenny for the Rivulet mill. Their workshop was in the Shuttle Shop, built by them. Later owners made shuttles; hence the name.

MUMFORD POND, 1926

POUT POND, 1926

(71) Dyeing and Finishing

John Capron was engaged in the business of dyeing and finishing cloth woven in the families of the vicinity. He controlled the water right of the Mumford river that he had bought from the Read family. He used the first Capron building, that stood where Taft's block now is, for his mill. He also used a room in a house that was once standing near E. J. Farnum's office. This house was later the home of John W. Capron.

1815

(72) The Ironstone Mill

The mill for the manufacture of cotton goods was built on Ironstone Brook by William Arnold and others.

(73) A Member of Congress

Benjamin Adams represented the South Worcester district in Congress from 1815 to 1823. "He was defeated for a second term by Jonathan Southwick by reason of a speech of Mr. Adams in favor of the protection of American manufactures. Daniel Webster and the commercial interests of Boston having taken the field against him on account of his vote in favor of the protection of American industry."

1818

(74) Militia Companies

A north company of militia, commanded by Otis Taft, was disbanded; the noncommissioned officers and privates were annexed to the south company, conmanded by Capt. John Grant. July 27, the united companies became the

Uxbridge Grenadiers, with John Carpenter, captain. The Grenadiers had two red letter days when the ladies of the Town presented banners to the company. The first of these gala occasions was in 1818, when the emblem was presented by Miss Catharine M. Read. The second occurred Sept. 18, 1826, when Miss Catharine Messenger was spokeswoman for the ladies.

The latter's opening words were, "Accept it, Sir, in testimony as a pledge of the deep interest we feel in what can add to your honorable distinction. Accept it, Sir, as evidence of our ardent wishes that your future deportment may evince the most sincere devotion to public duty."

So effective was the oratory of the fair of the Town, that the gallant, John W. Capron, who rose to be colonel of the regiment, married both the ladies—in succession, however, with due regard for Puritan proprieties.

(75) The Rogerson Mill

The Clapp cotton mill was bought by Robert Rogerson. Many improvements were made and the whole village laid out with much taste.

(76) Solomon's Temple Lodge, F. and A. M.

Dec. 10. The lodge's charter has this date.

1819

(77) Woolen Machinery

Jerry Wheelock built woolen machinery at his home in the east part of the Town, continuing in business until 1834, when the large machine shops of Worcester made competition impossible. "He was well known, not only in this vicinity, but

in parts of Connecticut, New Hampshire, and the eastern part of New York, as a through workman and as making great improvements in the machinery he built, both in workmanship and in the ease and perfection of its operation." One of his machines which went into immediate use in most of the mills of the county was used for napping.

(78) The Academy Building

Feb. An article appeared in the town warrant, "To see if the town will permit the erection of a private school-house on the north end of the Common, between the cartway leading to widow Fanny Willard's backyard, and the wall south of where the old blacksmith shop stands; provided said building can be erected by private beneficence".

Mar. 3. The Town voted that liberty be given to build a school-house on the town Common.

Dec. 25. The Masons, who paid for building a part of the school-house, held their first meeting in the upper story.

The Uxbridge Academy by William A. Mowry has been published.

1820

1192561

(79) A Private School

In the autumn a school was opened in the Academy building by Abiel Jacques.

(80) The Capron Mill

The mill, built in this year contained the first satinet power looms ever built. The looms were probably planned by Luke Jilson of Cumberland, R. I., who was the engineer of the mill.

1823

(81) The Blackstone Canal

The canal was incorporated. *The Blackstone Canal* by Miss Catherine D. Sessions and Mrs. Edith Shute tells the history of the canal.

1824

(82) The Forge Brook Mill

Seth Wheelock put up a building for carding woolen rolls on the south branch of Forge Brook, Ironstone.

1825

(83) The Blackstone Bank

Jan. 18. The bank was incorporated as a state bank with John Capron as president, Jonathan Gregory, cashier.

(84) The Luke Taft Mill

The mill, now the Waucantuck, was built by Luke Taft. This mill burnt in 1837 or 1838 and was at once rebuilt. For years both the mill and the village were called "Crackerville" from the crackers served at the "raising" dinner.

(85) The Uxbridge Woolen Manufacturing Company

The mill, now known as Hecla, was built on the Blackstone. It was incorporated the next year, the original owners being Amariah Chapin, Royal Chapin, Dr. George Willard, John Taft, and Orsmus Taft. For years the mill and village were called "Shankbone". The name originated at the "raising". "In those days the raising of every building of considerable size was the occasion of a great turn out of people

far and near who gave the job a big send off on the first day. Their labor was entirely voluntary, their only reward being a big dinner with plenty of liquid refreshment easy of access. Not much is now said about the latter, though it is safe to say it was neither water or 'three per cent', but the dinner was good and plenty, consisting of shankbone soup. No other name having been given to the long mill and village, some of the yeomanry dubbed it 'Shankbone', little thinking that the name would so long outlive them."

The original mill was burnt Ag. 28, 1828. It was rebuilt in 1828, was burnt in 1853 and rebuilt the same year.

1827

(86) The Post Office

The first post office was established. John W. Capron was the first post master. It is probable that the office was at first in Mr. Capron's house for his daughter, Mrs. W. L. Johnson, remembers a window that was always spoken of as the "post office window". Later the post office was in the Capron building.

1828

(87) The Blackstone Canal

Jul. 1. *The Lady Carrington* made her initial trip upon the canal from Canal street, Providence, to Scott's Pond.

Oct. 7. *The Lady Carrington* passed the whole length of the canal from Providence to Worcester.

1829

(88) The Capron Store

Effingham Capron, John W. Capron and William C. Capron inherited the corner building from their father, where they opened a general store.

1831

(89) A Division in the Church

Differences between a liberal party and a Calvanistic one caused a division of the members of the first parish, which led to two distinct societies: the Unitarian, named the First Congregational Society, and the then called "Orthodox", under the name, The First Evangelical Congregational Society. Both churches have published histories that tell of this schism.

(90) The First Evangelical Congregational Society

The society of this name was united with the church under the name, First Evangelical Congregational Church. Meetings were held in Taft's hall. The Rev. David A. Grosvenor was the first minister.

(91) The Uxbridge Grenadiers

May. Only sixteen soldiers answered to the call for the meeting of this date, the last recorded one.

(92) A Female Seminary

Dec. A female seminary was opened in the Academy building with Miss Susan Brigham as teacher.

1832

(93) The Population

The population was about 2,036.

1833

(94) The Wacantuck House

The old public house had been moved south on Main street, where it was later known as the Macomber building. Dudley from Douglas built a new hotel on the site of the old one. This proprietor was refused a license to sell liquor, sold it without one, was prosecuted, and finally so disgusted the citizens that a number of them, one of whom was Moses Taft, joined together under the name of the Temperance Company and in 1834 purchased the property. The company held the hotel but a short time. Then it was leased to Andrew Williams, who was succeeded by Kingman, then by Bennett, afterwards by Cogswell, who in turn was succeeded by Samuel Lovett, the proprietor for thirty years. A picture taken after 1844 has a sign over the hotel reading, "Wacantuck House by B. Cook".

(95) The First Evangelical Congregational Church

Nov. 13. The edifice of this church was dedicated.

(96) The Schools

A school for boys and girls was opened in the center school house.

(97) The Female Seminary

The first boarding house for the female seminary was opened in a house now one of the tenements on Mendon street.

Fifteen or sixteen boarders could be accommodated. Board was $1.40 per week. The next year, the Macomber building was used as the boarding house.

1834

(98) The Emerson Brook Mill

A woolen mill was started by Alvin Cooke on Emerson Brook.

1835

(99) The First Congregational Society

Jan. The society's new edifice was dedicated.

(100) A Seminary

An Uxbridge male and female seminary was opened with Charles C. Jewett as head master. Mr. Jewett was later the librarian of the Boston Public Library.

1837

(101) The Ladies Association

May The association was formed among the ladies of the First Congregational Society. It was the first society of a social nature in the Town.

(102) A Financial Storm

The year when the state banks failed was one of trial and failure in the manufacturing business. Scarcely a business man in the Blackstone Valley was left standing squarely on

his feet; although many went under for a time, most of them came to the surface again struggling desperately for success. An instance of the ill fortune which often attended the early woolen business is shown in the settlement of Dr. Willard's estate. He had stock in the Uxbridge Woolen Manufacturing Company that had cost him four thousand, five hundred dollars—nine shares. It sold about 1842 for forty-five dollars.

Another example of unsuccessful investment was the failure of Robert Rogerson of North Uxbridge. Mr. Rogerson was a man of great personal enterprise and public spirit but lacking in the necessary prudence. He was a heavy loser at this time. He, who a few years before could reckon his property by hundreds of thousands, went forth penniless, never to recover from his misfortunes.

(103) The Scadden Silver Mine

Silver was discovered by Kyland Tucker on his land. The find caused great excitement. Mr. Tucker nearly had brain fever. New York capitalists invested money in the development of the mine. A shaft was sunk, but water soon flooded the work, making pumps necessary. After a few years the project was abandoned. Every dollar mined was said to have cost a hundred dollars. An account of the mine is given in the Compendium of Mar. 28, 1886.

1839

(104) The Poor Farm

At this date the Town was maintaining a *Poor Farm*, paying the superintendent $200. In the financial reports of the year and in those of the forties, the support of the paupers was one of the largest items of expense.

(105) The Polls

The number of polls was 539. "The whole amount of reduced value of Real and Personal, $54,904.46. Each poll pay $1.45."

1841

(106) The Academy

Sept. Dr. J. Mason Macomber became principal of the Uxbridge Academy. Pupils from thirty-five towns and six different states attended the academy during the Doctor's principalship. For some time the Macombers lived in the house that had been owned by Dr. Willard and took academy students to board.

1842

(107) The North Uxbridge Baptist Church

Jun. 22. The church was organized with the Rev. Austin Robbins as pastor. Services were held in a hall built by Robert Rogerson that was "dedicated to Christian worship without regard to sect".

1844

(108) The Elm Trees

The trees were planted on Main street and the Common by an improvement society, headed by Mrs. Ebenezer Hayward. Some two hundred dollars were raised for the purpose. Money that was left from this fund was many years later used to help in paying for the granite posts at the entrance of Prospect Hill Cemetery.

1845

(109) The Shoe Business

In the forties and early fifties, there were shoe factories in Wheelocksville. The first large shop was probably on Mendon street where it occupied a building now divided into two houses, one owned by Nelson Fales, the other by the Waucantuck Mills. Another shop was run by Joshua Garside in what is now a tenement house on Henry street, the property of the Sessions. About 1851, Mr. Garside built an addition onto his small shop, which was dedicated with a dance. Firemen, impressive in uniforms, are remembered by a lady, who was then a child of five, as among the attendants at this social occasion.

1846

(110) Taft's Block

Apr. 28. Messrs. Robert and Jacob Taft bought the brick block from John W. and William C. Capron.

(111) The Almshouse

The almshouse, located near the New York and New England railroad at Ironstone, was burned.

1847

(112) The Almshouse

The almshouse was rented for the use of the paupers for $30.00.

(113) The Uxbridge Lodge, I. O. O. F.

The lodge was instituted with J. A. Bowen as noble grand.

(114) The Providence and Worcester Railroad

Oct. 25. The road was completed as far as Millville early in 1847, but in constructing the grade between Millville and Uxbridge the contractors "fell down on the job". The directors had to take the work into their own hands. The road was completed and opened for travel on Oct. 25. Then an excursion of stockholders and visitors was held. Three powerful engines hauled nine covered cars and twelve or thirteen open ones fitted with seats in which were seated some twelve hundred people. The train reached Worcester at 11.30 A. M. and left again at 1.30 P. M. At Worcester, two or three hundred more guests joined the procession. At 7.30, the return was made by moonlight, passengers being left at all the stations along the way.

Joseph Thayer was one of the first directors of the road. He contracted to build the portion of the track that ran through his place. An interesting anecdote is told by Judge Chapin of the Squire quelling a strike of the workers who had recently come to the United States by reading them the riot act.

1848

(115) The Uxbridge Lodge, I. O. O. F.

The widows' and orphans' fund of the Uxbridge Lodge, I. O. O. F. was established.

(116) The Almshouse

The present property was purchased for a town farm.

(117) The Blackstone Canal

The last toll was collected upon the Blackstone Canal. The canal had proved a wholly unproductive enterprise. "It

has been truly said that the canal was more useful to the public than to its owners." The dams and reservoirs built by the company later helped in the multiplication of manufactories.

1850

(118) The Uxbridge Cotton Mills

The mills were sold to the Messrs. Whitin of Northbridge.

(119) The Roman Catholic Church

The first mass was celebrated in the house of a laborer by Father McGrath. Previous to this date the Catholics had attended a mission in Blackstone.

(120) Rich Men

A Boston firm issued a book of some two hundred pages, giving the names and reputed wealth of all persons in the state worth $50,000 or more, with a short sketch of their lives and how they got their money. Below are the names listed from Uxbridge.

"Uxbridge—Dexter Richardson, $50,000; mostly inherited; farmer, and speculator. Joseph Thayer, $50,000; mostly inherited; lawyer, farmer, speculator".

Dexter Richardson was the son of Joseph about whom Judge Chapin tells the following story: "As he (Joseph Richardson) showed to a neighbor his various notes and mortgages, the neighbor inquired, 'How under heaven did you come by so much property?'

'Ah' said he, 'any fool can make money, but it takes a wise man to keep it.' "

Joseph Thayer lived in what is now the Bazeley house, which was built by his wife's father, Bazaleel Taft, Sr., in 1794.

1852

(121) The Post Office

The post office in North Uxbridge was removed to Rogerson village.

(122) The Telegraph

The town was first connected by telegraph with the outside world. The wire was run into the store owned by Robert Taft. A telegraph machine was placed in the Store and A. S. Sweet was instructed in its use by an expert from Providence. The first dispatch sent by him was to the firm of S. W. Foster for a tierce of lard for the store; telegraphing for it in the morning, the tierce arrived in Uxbridge on the noon train.

(123) The Central Woolen Mill

Moses Taft built the mill now known as the Stanley Woolen Mill, then called the Central Woolen Mill. Extensive water rights controlled by the Blackstone Canal Company were bought to gain a clear title to the water power. Employees labored in the mills at this date 66 hours a week.

(124) St. Mary's Church

The Rev. Charles O'Reilley began to come once a month from Blackstone to celebrate mass in Taft's hall. Father O'Reilley laid the foundation of St. Mary's Church for which he secured the lot on North Main street.

1853

(125) The Constitutional Convention

Joseph Thayer was a delegate to the convention.

1854

(126) The Burying-Ground

The use of the old burying-ground on the site of the town hall ceased.

1855

(127) Prospect Hill Cemetery

William C. Capron opened his land, about eight acres adjoining the new burying-ground for a cemetery, calling it *Prospect Hill Cemetery*. At first Deacon Capron generously spent all the money he received from the sale of lots in embellishing the grounds, laying out walks and grading. Afterwards he retained one half the purchase money. Dr. W. A. Mowry wrote of the Deacon, "His life should be embalmed in the memory of all the good people of the town."

(128) St. Mary's Church

The church on North Main street was dedicated.

(129) The High School

In the spring of the year, the high school was established with Nathan E. Goldthwaite as principal.

1857

(130) The Tomb

The Town paid $421.47 as "expenses for building Tomb".

1858

(131) The Wheelocksville

A school building was erected.

1860

(132) The Worcester Southeast Agricultural Society

Apr. 3. This society was incorporated in Milford. Samuel Taft of Uxbridge was one of the vice presidents and other Uxbridge men were on the board of directors. In 1883, the society was being run by Uxbridge men, with Daniel W. Taft as president. In that year a fair was held in cooperation with the *Uxbridge and Mendon Farmers Club.* The two clubs were merged and became the *Blackstone Valley Agricultural Society.*

1861

(133) The Civil War

May 11. The first war meeting was held in the basement of the Unitarian church, then used for town meetings, when it was voted "to give each volunteer belonging to the town twenty-one dollars a month while in service and one dollar a day for drilling, previous to enlistment, not exceeding twenty days of eight hours a day". Fifteen hundred dollars was appropriated at the same time to purchase uniforms and one hundred dollars to defray the expense of forming a company of riflemen.

(134) The Christian and Sanitary Society

The society was started as soon as war was declared. Mrs. Wilcox, the wife of the Doctor, took charge of the work. Many entertainments were given by the ladies to raise money. Mrs. Jennie Legg Lyndes wrote of one of these patriotic occasions, "The first fair for the benefit of the soldiers was held in Robert Taft's hall. Mrs. James Taft had charge of the fancy work table and Mrs. Susan Hayward of the candy

THE S. F. SCOTT & SONS ELMDALE MILLS, 1926
The site of Day Mill, 1810

THE DAVIS & BROWN MILL, 1926
Built in 1820

table. The cake and flower tables, I do not remember who had charge of. They had some tableaus—'The Ten Virgins'. Ten young ladies all in white, five with lamps burning and five kneeling with lamps gone out. I can only remember one of the young ladies that took part and that was Sarah Smith Taft. She made a striking picture kneeling with the white veil thrown over her head. It reminded me of pictures I have seen of the Madonna."

1863

(135) The Old Burying-Ground

A suit was brought against the Town for trespass on the old burying-ground. "It was decided by the Supreme Court that a grant of land which is to be used for a burying-place 'forever,' 'in consideration of love and affection' and 'for diverse other valuable considerations' is not a grant under conditions, and the town gained the suit."

1865

(136) The Happy Hollow Mill

The mill was erected on Emerson Brook on the site of a former saw and grist mill by Zadok A. Taft and D. M. Lee.

(137) The Blackstone National Bank

The bank ceased to be a state bank and became allied with the National Bank system as the *Blackstone National Bank.*

(138) The Granite Quarry

Bradford J. Blanchard went into the business of quarrying granite on Williams Hill. His first contract was for the stone of the Linwood mill.

(139) Cloth for the Soldiers

The Central Woolen mill (now the Stanley Woolen company), run by Messrs. Taft, Weeden and Company, was engaged from July 1, 1859 to Jan. 1, 1864 in "the manufacture of indigo blue goods for officers and suitings, all product being contracted direct to the United States government and receiving the highest commendation. The mill was run day and night upon this line of goods, requiring sixteen blue vats for coloring the wool". Other mills, notably the old Capron mill run by Robert and Jacob Taft, made cloth for the soldiers.

(140) The Civil War

The Town furnished two hundred and ninety soldiers, seventeen more than their quota as called by the state.

"The whole amount of money expended for war purposes was $20,200; for state aid to families about $14,600, about $10,000 was contributed by citizens in addition to the above. Large quantities of clothing, stockings, and shoes were also contributed by the Ladies' Soldiers Aid Society and other patriotic workers, and many hundred dollars worth of articles intended for the comfort of the boys at the front were forwarded of which no estimate can be made."

1866

(141) The Stage Coach

The last stage line between Uxbridge and Milford which connected with the Milford branch of the Boston and Albany railroad was discontinued. James D. Perry was the driver of this line.

1867

(142) The High School

The center school building, then used for a high school, was erected at a cost of $17,000.

(143) The H. H. Legg Post, G. A. R.

May 21. The post was instituted with A. A. Sherman as commander. The meeting place was in a building on the site of Daley's store. In 1873, the post was named for Henry H. Legg, of whom the following account was written by Gustavus B. Williams:

"On Saturday I learned that Henry Legg of Uxbridge, a member of the 25th regiment is dead. Knowing him well I can say with confidence that few men superior to Mr. L. can be found. Of fine form and noble presence, with cultivated mind and manners, pure principle and devoted patriotism, he volunteered in the war as a private. Leaving a comfortable home, parents, brothers and sisters, he cheerfully entered the ranks in obedience to the evident call of duty. He escaped death at Newbern and Roanoke only to meet it on a sick bed in a hospital. There will be great sorrow in his native town at his loss, for he was known everywhere as a true man. His was a pure life and an honorable death."

1869

(144) The Schools

The school districts were abolished by the state. The Town bought of the several districts property aggregating by the appraisal of the committee something over $23,000.

(145) The Town Clock

An anonymous donor presented the clock to the Town through his attorney. It was purchased of the Howard Watch and Clock Company of Boston. The only condition attached to the gift was that the Town should keep the clock in repair. Upon the death of Willard Judson, it was announced that he had been the donor. Though Mr. Judson was a Deacon of the First Evangelical Congregational Church, he asked that the clock be placed upon the Unitarian steeple as it could be more generally seen there than elsewhere.

1870

(146) The Uxbridge Savings Bank

The bank was incorporated with Moses Taft, president, Charles Taft, treasurer.

1872

(147) A Farmers' Club

The first club of the farmers of Mendon and Uxbridge seems to have been formed in this year.

(148) The Bank Robbery

Jul. 12. "The Blackstone National bank was robbed of more than thirteen thousand dollars. . . . The burglars compelled teller Charles S. Weston to open the bank vaults. It was a desperate undertaking, planned and carried to a successful execution by four daring desperate professional bank burglars. . . . At the point of the pistol, while securely handcuffed and with a 'twister' about his neck, two of the burglars marched the bank official from his home in the

dead of night to unlock the doors of the vault upon penalty of death and open the safe containing the cash and other valuables. Then the burglars helped themselves to all the money in sight, returned the teller to his home, and made their escape."

(149) The Second District Court of Southern Worcester County

The court was established with Arthur A. Putnam, justice, Zadok A. Taft, special justice.

(150) Spiritual Seances

One of the popular forms of entertainment at this season were seances, which were sometimes held at the home of Dr. Macomber.

1873

(151) The Worcester South Compendium

Oct. 4. The Compendium was first published in Uxbridge with George W. Spencer as proprietor.

(152) Blanchard's Granite Quarry

Aug. B. J. Blanchard had a contract to supply $20,000 worth of stone for use in rebuilding the Boston burnt district.

1874

(153) The Uxbridge Free Public Library

Apr. The Town, influenced thereto by Charles A. Wheelock, voted to establish a free public library.

(154) The Uxbridge Musical Society

This society was one of the many successors of the old sodality. The music performed was no longer strictly religious. Cantatas were given under the direction of A. Astor Broad, who was many years the leader in musical activity. The performances were staged in Taft's hall, then described as dingy, small, and inconvenient.

(155) The Growth of the Town

Between the years 1874 and 1878, there was much building done in Uxbridge. The Compendium for May 17, 1879, gives a list of the buildings erected. Some of the most pretentious houses date from this period.

(156) Labor Laws

A Massachusetts law forbade more than ten hours a day labor in the mills.

(157) The Liquor Question

The Town ceased to run a liquor agency.

(158) The Taft Family Gathering

Aug. 12. The gathering was held in a large tent erected on the grounds owned by the Caprons, the site of the present high school. The proceedings of the gathering were published in a pamphlet for which Daniel W. Taft paid.

(159) The Methodist Episcopal Church

Sept. The Methodist church originated a mission in Taft's hall, services being conducted by the Rev. William Merrill, the pastor of the Whitinsville Methodist Church.

1875

(160) The Old Burying-Ground

The last remains were removed from the old burying-ground to Prospect Hill Cemetery.

(161) The Uxbridge Free Public Library

Jan. 20. The library was opened in Barnes' jewelry store with Frank Barnes as librarian. Charles A. Wheelock was president of the Board of Trustees.

1876

(162) Street Lighting

The Town was lighted by twenty-two lamps. Arthur Wheelock kept an account of "the Street light fund" that showed $480.19, the receipts of tableaux and wax work entertainments and subscriptions. Citizens also gave supplies and labor to maintain the lights. Previous to this year, Silas Wheelock had placed lamps on the road across the flats—the first street lighting in Town.

(163) Blanchard's Granite Quarry

At this date Mr. Blanchard was advertising "the beautiful Red Granite that has lately come to light at my Quarry". This vein of granite was soon exhausted.

1877

(164) Doctor Levi P. Wilson

It was during this year that "Doc Wilson" began to attract attention in Town because of the marked improvements which he was making on his place in North Uxbridge.

1878

(165) The Woman's Christian Temperance Union

Feb. 7. The union was organized with Mrs. C. W. Scott as president. Hudson's hall, until it was divided into rooms for renting, was the place of meeting.

1879

(166) The Worcester South Compendium

In the middle of the year, L. H. Balcome became the sole proprietor of the paper.

(167) The Wacantuck Brass Band

The band at this time was conducted by George W. Spencer. Under different managements with various leaders a brass band was long an important adjunct in Town affairs.

(168) The Dedication of the Town Hall

Feb. 25. The dedication of the town hall, A. P. Cutting of Worcester, architect. This event was celebrated with a grand concert and ball, the proceedings of which ($135) were used to buy inside shutters to prevent the "outside audiences on Judson's hill from looking in at the windows". D. W. Reeve's orchestra of Providence furnished music. Tillinghast of Providence catered. The new style of serving small quantities of ice cream and cake from a side table was the cause of much adverse criticism.

"The hall was brilliantly illuminated (by gas) and showed to fine advantage the elegant toilettes which are becoming a feature of our society gatherings. The floor wasn't quite smooth enough to be called perfect, but which may be ac-

counted for in having recently been oiled and the dust being tracked on it gave it rather too much friction. It certainly didn't improve the many trains which swept across it."

(169) Croquet

Jul. Croquet games were in constant practice on the Common. "The game of croquet is reduced to a positive science by Uxbridge players, many of whom handle the balls and play the game with consummate skill."

(170) The Uxbridge Water Company

A copartnership was formed by Moses Taft, A. W. Bennett, C. A. Taft, Henry G. Taft, Martin S. Brown, J. Walter Day, George F. Day, and E. B. Hayward for the purpose of buying the right to divert the water from O. C. Smiley's spring and the right to build a reservoir on the land of Mrs. Elsie Tucker. This was a private company and furnished water to the homes of the interested men.

(171) The Academy Building

Sept. 15. The much contested title to the building was settled by a report from master, T. L. Nelson, who, upon this date, reported that the legal title to the land belonged to the Town, that the academy belonged to the Town as a part of the reality.

(172) The Uxbridge and Mendon Farmer's Club

Oct. 23. The first cattle show of the club was held. In the parade Arthur Wheelock was chief marshal, Dr. Levi P. Wilson and Frank W. Barnes, aides. Charles S. Taft's trained steers were prominent in the procession. One hundred and fifty head of cattle were shown in the sheds of the churches.

Dinner was served in the Unitarian vestry. The Wacantuck brass band played.

(173) The History of Uxbridge

The History of Uxbridge, written by George A. Stockwell, was published in the *History of Worcester County*.

(174) Division 13, Ancient Order of Hibernians.

The division was formed in this year. Previous to this date Uxbridge men had belonged to the Whitinsville Hibernians.

1880

(175) The Methodist Episcopal Church

In the spring the edifice of this church was dedicated. The building was assisted by a large contribution from Moses Taft, a Unitarian. The site was a part of the old burying-ground. The Rev. George H. Perkins was the pastor.

(176) The High School Reunion

Mar. 19. The High School Association's first ball was held in the new town hall. The Germania orchestra played. "Never was such a brilliant spectacle of a ball room scene witnessed before and indeed we believe that it is not every day when other places can boast of its equal, judging from the comments of many from out of town present." Similar balls, given annually for many years, were regarded as the Town's most important social events.

(177) The Uxbridge Free Public Library

Mar. The library was moved to quarters prepared for the books in the new town hall. Lawson A. Seagrave became librarian.

1881

(178) Maple Trees

The abuttors on North Main street set out maple trees along the roadway.

(179) Judge Chapin's Address

The Town published *An Address* written by Judge Henry Chapin and delivered at the Unitarian church in 1864. The book, edited by Rev. Rushton D. Burr, a former Unitarian minister, was a valuable contribution to Uxbridge history.

(180) The Lockup

Apr. The Town voted to build a lockup in the basement of the town hall. Previous to this date the lockup had been in the basement of the Hudson building. Then Samuel Hudson acted as the keeper.

(181) The Uxbridge Water Company

Apr. 25. The company, duly incorporated, was organized with Dr. Alonzo W. Bennett as president.

(182) The Wacantuck House

Jun. The house was bought by Dr. Levi P. Wilson, who moved the building to Douglas street, where it is now a tenement house, and erected Hotel Wilson. A. P. Cutting was the architect of the new hotel.

(183) The North Uxbridge Baptist Church

Aug. 4. The church edifice was dedicated. Richard Sayles a Universalist, was chairman of the building committee. The cost was about $11,000.

(184) The Dark Day

Sept. 7. "Considerable consternation was felt by many about town Tuesday at the remarkable appearance of the sky, which in many cases amounted to postive fright. . . . Clouds soon began to form and a dense smoke to rise, seemingly in all directions and the whole heavens were overcast with a pale yellowish smoke. . . . So dark were the skies in the afternoon that the schools closed and in all the stores and some of the houses lights were burning. All day long the sky had the usual appearance of an hour after sunset on a dry hot day, and what little air was stirring seemed to add all the more to the oppressive heat".

(185) The Providence and Worcester Railroad

A double track was completed to Providence.

1882

(186) Hotel Wilson

May 22. "The doors of Hotel Wilson were thrown open to the public for the first time on Monday of this week. . . . In the course of the day and evening it is estimated that no less than five hundred visitors travelled through the spacious halls and finely furnished rooms, hardly able to realize that they were in their own town when being shown through the beautiful suite of Dr. Wilson in which money enough to build a moderate hotel has evidently been expended."

"Speaking of its size as being disproportionate to the needs of our quiet town, the assertion is open to discussion, that if a few of our capitalists were to do half for our public good as has the founder of Hotel Wilson, the capacity of the same would

be found inadequate to the wants of Uxbridge in the near future."

The first proprietor of the hotel was James Barker.

(187) The Lockup

Jun. The Town lockup was completed, the first prisoner being "taken off the 5:18 train 'full as a tick' and for this was granted the distinction of being first to occupy apartments at 'Hotel-de—' ".

(188) The Uxbridge Water Company

Sept. The company completed its second large receiving reservoir on Carpenter's hill. Later in the year pipes were laid up North Main street.

(189) The Tourists

The organization, that has added much to the social life of the Town, was formed.

1883

(190) Concrete Walks

Many concrete walks were laid in the center at private expense.

(191) The Blackstone Valley Agricultural Society

The society received its charter and "purchased extensive grounds, erected cattle sheds and pens, and built a track for the trial of farm and family carriage horses only, racing-horses for purses being expressly prohibited".

(192) Taft's Block

This year the original building was remodeled, the mansard roof being added. The outside stairs which led to the store were left in position.

(193) Hotel Wilson

Mar. The Wilson bubble having burst, the hotel was purchased by J. W. and G. F. Day.

(194) Opera in Uxbridge

Dec. The first of a series of operas, *The Chimes of Normandy*, was given in the town hall. The operas were conducted by W. Mason Broad, the second of the name to furnish musical entertainment for the Town.

1884

(195) The Second District Court

Judge Putnam published his book, *Ten Years a Police Court Judge*, recounting his experiences as justice of the district court.

1885

(196) The Prospect Hill Cemetery

Apr. The cemetery was improved.

(197) The Wheelocksville School House

Sept. 30. The school was burned. The loss was $6,000.

(198) Roller Skating Rinks

Roller skating rinks were allowed on the town hall during the eighties. The rink of this year was especially popular, races being staged. "Hunt" Shaughnessy won one of these races for which he was awarded a purse of two dollars. By the next fall the rink had worn out the floor; hence when the selectmen released the hall for skating the period was limited until enough rent should have been paid to get a new floor. In January of 1886, the rink was closed and the floor laid.

(199) The Post Office

The post office in North Uxbridge was removed to Chase's store with Miss Maria Chase as post-mistress. Later Wilfred J. Tanerell was postmaster.

1886

(200) Hotel Windsor

George F. Day became proprietor of Hotel Windsor. The name had by this time been changed from Hotel Wilson to Windsor, a word as near the former as possible to make changes easy.

(201) The Calumet Woolen Company

The Hecla mill was bought and much improved by the company.

(202) A Stone Bridge

A new stone arch bridge was constructed over the Mumford at the center. George M. Blanchard was the constructor.

(203) The Wheelocksville School House

Apr. The school house, built to replace the one burnt in 1885, was completed.

(204) Electric Lights

Dec. 14. "The Hecla mills were illuminated by electricity Tuesday for the first time, which, by the way, is the first electric lighting in town." People used to watch to see the wonder of the brilliantly lighted mill all at once becoming dark. The magic that could be worked by an electric light switch was a novelty.

1887

(205) Electric Lights

Aug. Charles C. Capron installed an electric light plant for the use of his house and his shoddy and yarn mill. In September, the hotel was likewise lighted with electricity.

(206) The A. A. Sherman Camp, S. of V.

Aug. 30. The camp was formed. A. A. Sherman for whom the camp was named was a gallant soldier. He enlisted in 1861 from Uxbridge and was mustered out in 1865. During his service of nearly four years, he engaged in twelve general battles, thirteen cavalry engagements, and sixty-four skirmishes that resulted in the loss of life.

1888

(207) Electric Lights

The residents and business men of the center had the benefit of electric lights through the generosity of Charles C. Capron.

(208) The School Superintendent

The first school superintendent, George W. Hobbs, was employed for part time.

(209) The Williams Hill School House

A school house was built on Williams Hill.

(210) The Court of Purity, F. of A.

Feb. The court was organized.

THE STANLEY WOOLEN COMPANY, INC. 1926

THE UXBRIDGE WORSTED COMPANY, INC. 1927

(211) The American Telephone and Telegraph Co.

Poles were erected through Main street for the telephone wires connecting Providence and Worcester. This company had no exchange in Uxbridge.

(212) The Uxbridge and Northbridge Electric Co.

The company was established this year. In 1889, it was incorporated. The power station was at North Uxbridge.

(213) Street Lighting

A large incandescent electric light was place in the center.

(214) A Republican Victory

Nov. 12. The Republicans celebrated the election of Harrison and Morton. A drum corps, colored fires, old General Hancock—the cannon—and torch lights, all helped paint the Town red.

(215) The Flag Staff

Dec. A new staff was erected by the G. A. R. to replace the one that blew down in 1887.

1889

(216) Street Lighting

Apr. The Town's streets were lighted with two electric and sixteen kerosene lamps. On Apr. 22, the Town voted that more oil lamps be erected.

(217) Street Sprinkling

A watering cart covered a more extensive territory than heretofore. Charles C. Capron furnished the water and the power for pumping the water up the hill, the water company

not having a sufficient supply. The expense of the sprinkling was borne by the property owners by whose buildings the cart passed.

(218) Hobb's History of Uxbridge

A history of the Town written by George W. Hobbs was published in a History of Worcester County.

1890

(219) The School Superintendent

The towns of Uxbridge and Douglas formed a union for the purpose of jointly employing a superintendent of schools in both towns. A. J. Curtis was the first superintendent.

(220) Street Lighting

More incandescant lights were placed on the streets.

(221) Labor Laws

The mills ceased to employ women and minors before six o'clock in the morning or after ten o'clock at night.

(222) Memorial Day Exercises

May 29. The first Memorial Day exercises were held in the schools.

(223) The Uxbridge Water Company

The Town voted to become the owner of the property of the Uxbridge Water Company.

(224) The Father Mathew Total Abstinence Society

Oct. 11. The society was organized.

(225) The Freight Depot

Jan. The new freight depot was finished. A new road was constructed to lead to the depot with an iron fence along the bank wall.

(226) The First Evangelical Congregational Church

The history of the church, written by the Rev. Frank Louis Bristol, was published.

(227) The Uxbridge Creamery

May The creamery with a capacity of one thousand pounds butter per day was put in operation. This company was a factor in Town business for a number of years. The farmers, however, were not in agreement regarding its support.

(228) The Woman's Christian Temperance Union

For many years in the summer, the Union sent flowers every Saturday morning to Boston for distribution in places where cheer was needed. Mrs. Charles W. Scott conducted the work. The North Uxbridge W. C. T. U. was formed in June.

1892

(229) The High School Building

This year there was agitation among the citizens regarding the site for a new high school building. The Capron site—the present location—and the Hayward site—Dr. W. L. Johnson's estate—each were favored by determined voters. The town hall rang to much oratory. At the April 16 meeting, the Hayward lot received one hundred and sixty votes, the Capron lot, two hundred and forty votes.

(230) The Liquor Question

At this time, the Town had voted license. There was a salon at Calumet and one in the Goldthwaite building. Each of the proprietors paid a license of $1800.00.

(231) The Hardward Business

Henry S. Farnum purchased the hardware business from Henry G. Taft. In 1895, Mr. Farnum moved the little store, that had been a social center for years, back into Mechanic square, and erected the present brick block.

(232) The Woman's Relief Corps, No. 153

Sept. 7. The corps was organized with Mrs. Louise Holbrook as president.

(233) Labor Laws

The fifty-eight hour labor law was first put in effect in the mills.

(234) Drinking Fountain

A drinking fountain was erected by the W. C. T. U. on the south end of the Common.

(235) A Democratic Victory

Nov. 15. The Democrats celebrated the election of Grover Cleveland. The jollification included a torch light procession, brass band, red fire, and illuminated houses. The accompaniment of a drizzling rain was, perhaps, a forerunner of the hard times to come.

1893

(236) Hard Times

A hard year for the Town. There was so much unemployment that by December the overseers of the poor were aiding

fifty families, outside of those resident at the almshouse. The water in the reservoir was most inadequate, twice running completely dry. The water from Mumford river, necessary for fighting fires, was dangerous to drink. Force pumps from the Capron Woolen company's mill yard pumped this water into the mains in October.

(237) The High School Building

The building was erected on the Capron lot at a cost of $25,000.

(238) The School Superintendent

The union with Douglas for the purpose of hiring a school superintendent was dissolved.

(239) The Uxbridge and Northbridge Electric Co.

From the plant of the company, located in North Uxbridge, street lights were furnished to the Town on a "moonlight" schedule.

"There is something wrong with the contract between the town and the Electric Company or in some other way, for there is not light when there ought so be. Before a new contract is made see that light is given on a 'moon night' if it happens to be cloudy and dark. They are needed as much then as any time."

(240) The Passenger Depot

May A bill was presented to the legislature to compel the Providence and Worcester railroad company to furnish suitable depot accommodations at Uxbridge. The bill became a law, but the company were given an extension of time before building the new depot until the question of highways and the possible elimination of one or more grade crossings had been decided.

(241) Tramps

Sept. "Owing to the present state of the country, numbers of unemployed men are roaming through the town night and day, and are bound to get a living somehow, either 'by hook or crook' as the old saying is. Many are becoming desperate and it is unsafe for travel at night even within the bounds of the village."

The Town employed its first night watchman.

1894

(242) The Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the town was changed to end Dec. 31. Previous to this date the town reports had been from Feb. 1 to Jan. 31.

(243) The Liquor Question

The Town voted license and there were three salons, each proprietor paying a license of $1800.

(244) Sidewalks

Numerous concrete sidewalks, most of them at private expense, were laid.

(245) The Postmaster

Mar. 5. Charles E. Cook was first appointed postmaster.

(246) The Telephone

Mar. "Hello! A new telephone has been put up in town, divided into two divisions. The first division includes C. C. Capron's residence, Capron Woolen Co's office, freight and passenger depots and E. B. Hayward's store. The second, Hotel Windsor, C. W. Scott & Co's store, Creamery, Rawson

Bros' market and Whitmore Bros' store. Probably others will get connected in time and the arrangement prove very handy all around."

(247) Patriot's Day

Apr. 19. "The new holiday, the 119th anniversary of the great battle of Lexington, appointed to supersede Fast Day, was not generally observed in this town. . . . Employees in the mills have had so many holidays in the past few months that it was the general wish among them to work if they could. The schools closed and some slight recognition was the only manner in which the day was observed."

(248) The Water Works

May The water in the reservoirs of the water works was so low that another water famine was predicted. In September the water from the well in the Capron Woolen Company's mill yard was again pumped into the mains. An analysis made by the state board of health found the water unfit for drinking.

(249) The Thayer Memorial Building

June 20. The building, a gift of Edward C. Thayer to the Town, was dedicated. "The site selected comprised in part common land and in part land belonging to the Capron family, a garden of charming loveliness, removed from the street and separated from the common by an arbor vitæ hedge and a white picket fence, both low enough for the passerby to note in its box bordered parterre a bush of Christmas holly, rare in this section, and clusters of the gay and fragrant flowers our grandmothers grew. 'A garden is a lovesome thing God wot', and it is a pleasing fancy that in its metamorphosis this old time garden still retains its lure and charm for old and young alike."

The proceedings of the dedication were later published.

(250) The Passenger Depot

Jul. The new depot was started, stakes being driven into the ground to locate the site. The depot was completed in 1895.

(251) The Grade Crossing

Jul. The findings of the commissioner regarding the abolition of the grade crossing in the center were published. A private crossing owned by the Caprons had delayed this finding. Of the total expense the Commonwealth was to pay twenty-five per cent, Uxbridge ten per cent, and the Providence and Worcester railroad, sixty-five per cent. The railroad was to do all the work and furnish material.

(252) Bicycles

Aug. 24. "Uxbridge has but few bicycles riders, but the few, we are pleased to say, sit up straight and do not present the appearance of a baboon walking a tight-rope on all fours as many riders do. The stooping is not only ungraceful and devoid of all dignity, but it is said to be injurious to the rider. The males could follow the style of the lady riders and show horse sense."

1895

(253) The Liquor Question

The prohibition officer was especially active in raiding supposed liquor sellers. Shuttle Shop, a rendezvous for hard characters, was pronounced "as big a nuisance as there ever was located on that pleasant throughfare, Douglas street, and that is saying a heap".

(254) The Passenger Depot

The depot was completed and replaced the dilapidated

structure, a combination of freight and passenger depot that had been in use since 1849.

(255) Tramps

"The Town put up and fed in the eleven months ending Dec. 31st nearly 2,000 tramps. . . . Isn't it time to take up the subject for consideration and isn't the usual election the time to do it?"

In April, Lawson A. Seagrave, janitor of the town hall for fifteen years, in his farewell letter of thanks to the people, speaks of having housed 11,000 tramps.

(256) The Water Supply

Mar. 1. The legislative committee on water supply reported a bill giving the Town the right, under certain conditions, to take water from *Mendon Pond.* The bill later became a law. The Town then had three years and the right to hold nine town meetings to accept the provisions. The question was one that caused many heated debates and much hard feeling.

(257) A Great Fire

Mar. 19. A fire was discovered in the center early in the morning. The old Macomber building, Goldthwaite's brick block, and the roof of Gredig's three story block were burnt. Charles E. Cook tells this story of his experience:

"My sleep was broken on the morning of Mar. 19, 1895, by the arrival of a friend at my home in Wheelocksville with a team to take me over to the center where the post office was on fire. The office was then located in the north end of the Macomber building in an addition (a small two story affair). I was able to secure the books but did not save the supplies. I went up to Whitinsville and at four o'clock roused the post-

master there and secured stamps and necessities to do business. On the street I made arrangements with Harry T. Hayward to take possession as soon as it was daylight of the lower part of his father's store—the building now owned by Dennis Daley. There I opened for regular business as soon as people were about."

In this fire volunteers distinguished themselves by efficient work. The loss was a little over $25,000.

(258) THE RAILROAD BRIDGE.

Apr. In the center the railroad tracks were elevated upon a bridge built across Mendon street. The John Capron house, before the coming of the railroad the most beautiful residence in Town, was further spoiled for a dwelling by this encroachment of the steam railway. For a description of the Capron estate consult *Some Old Houses* written by Mrs. W. L. Johnson.

(259) THE SIDEWALKS

In the summer, 2,500 square yards of concrete sidewalks were laid on the main thoroughfare of the Town.

(260) THE TELEPHONE

The telephone at this date was located in E. B. Hayward's store, Taft's block.

(261) THE WAUCANTUCK LODGE, A. O. U. W.

Jun. 14. The lodge was organized.

(262) PAY DAY

Aug. 9. At this date, all the mills but one—the Capron—paid help weekly.

(263) ICE

A visiting bacteriologist ordered that no more ice be cut from Shuttle Shop pond, on account of the danger of contagion.

The ice was henceforth cut by members of the Dandridge Taft family off ponds in North Uxbridge.

(264) Drawing Supervisor

The first drawing supervisor, Miss Elizabeth H. Treadwell, was employed for the schools. The supervisor was necessary in order to fit graduates of the high school for the normal school examinations. Part of the expense for her salary was met by funds raised at entertainments.

(265) The Macomber Association

An association that was formed that included anyone who had at any time been a pupil of Dr. J. Mason Macomber. Reunions, which were of historical and fraternal interest were held for a number of years. Dr. W. A. Mowry was an important member of the association.

(266) The Sunday Law

Complaint was made in the Compendium of the Providence and Worcester railroad running freight trains through the Town on Sundays. The article mentioned that the railway people had a short time previously been summoned before the state commissioners for running similar trains.

(267) Population

The population of the Town was 3,546.

1896

(268) The Uxbridge Brass Band

Jan. The band fair was held during this month. For a number of years similar fairs enlived the winter season. J. Walter Day was the director.

(269) The Mendon Historical Society

Feb. 18. The society was formed, with a membership composed of the people resident in the towns that were originally a part of old Mendon.

(270) North Uxbridge Secession

Mar. Linwood citizens agitated the question of being annexed to Northbridge. The distance from schools and the absence of a water supply were the reasons for dissatisfaction. Later a legislative committee gave A. C. Slater and other petitioners leave to withdraw their annexation bill.

(271) Malaria

During the warm months there was a great prevalence of malaria, several deaths occurring from the disease. Among the causes suggested for the epidemic were the removal of large amounts of earth in raising the railroad tracks; the presence of still ponds that were offensive at low water; the use of water from the well in the Capron Woolen Company's mill yard. Leonard D. White, M. D., at the time chairman of the board of health, was most active in taking measures to safeguard the health of the townspeople.

(272) A Great Fire

Dec. 20. The midnight freight saw a fire in Uxbridge center; going on to Worcester, the train later returned with a fire engine and horses. By the time the train was back four blocks and part of another had burned. Taft's block, an old landmark built by John Capron for a mill, was burned. Gunn's block, on the east side, built about three years before was destroyed. Two of Christian Gredig's blocks were burned. E. M. Goldthwaite's three story frame block had the side and roof burnt. "The loss by fire at Uxbridge

teaches the lesson that no town can afford to be without either modern apparatus or a well organized fire department. Uxbridge is without either and the folly appears in the smouldering ruins of five large business blocks entailing a loss of $100,000."

The fire was on Sunday morning; Monday morning Horace E. Gunn, the druggist, started business in the Audsley building with the sign, "Old Gunn with a New Stock".

1897

(273) The Water Supply

The Town voted by large majorities at the town meetings of this year not to take *Mendon Pond* for a water supply. The question had been continuously agitated since 1894. Much valuable and reliable information was supplied by engineers during the controversy. The need of an adequate water supply was too great to let even these decisive votes close the question. Uxbridge still talked of *Mendon Pond* as the only possible source of pure water.

(274) The H. H. Legg Post Associates

An associate membership of the post was instituted to assist the old soldiers in carrying on the work of the organization.

(275) Bicycles

"The bicycle craze which has struck Uxbridge in conjunction with almost every town in the country has been one of considerable magnitude and bicycle dealers have been so well patronized of late that it almost seems that everyone, male and female, young and old, have or are trying to acquire the knack of propelling the silent steed."

"Riders of bicycles are getting more and more negligent every day of the rights of pedestrians upon the sidewalks of this town and especially in the evenings".

Accidents were frequent. The familiar name for DeWitt's witch hazel salve was the "Bicylists' Best Friend". Strong protests were made against intoxicated men riding wheels.

(276) The Uxbridge Academy

William A. Mowry published a history of the Uxbridge Academy.

1898

(277) The Spanish War

Apr. "William A. Kelly of the famous 6th Mass. regiment, U. S. Volunteers was the only Uxbridge boy who saw active service and got a chance to shoot the Spaniards." His history is printed in the Compendium for Nov. 25, 1898.

Uxbridge young men enlisted for service in the Philippines. Eugene S. Farnum, Jr. and Thomas F. Powers died from diseases contracted while on duty with their companies.

(278) The Spanish War

The Massachusetts Volunteers' Aid Association, the women's organization of the Spanish War, was active during the summer, with Mrs. W. E. Hayward, as president, and Miss Beatrice Putnam as secretary.

"The local branch of the association have been working on supplies for the soldiers all summer, and have sent to the warehouse in Boston 319 abdominal bands, 9 pajamas, 75 comfort bags. Money has been contributed generously by the citizens of the town, and after all bills are paid it is expected there will remain something like $100 to send in to Mr. Higgin-

son, treasurer of the M. V. A. A." Individuals also contributed to the *Bay State Hospital Ship*.

(279) The Joseph Thayer Scholarship

May 13. Edward C. Thayer established at *Brown University* the Joseph Thayer scholarship in memory of his father.

(280) The Civil War Monument

Sept. 14. The monument to the Civil War veterans, designed by Prout Bros., of Quincy was dedicated. Private contributions and an appropriation by the Town paid for this memorial.

(281) Supervisor of Music

The first supervisor of music, A. C. Saunders, was hired for the schools.

(282) Hard Times

George Fred Williams, speaking before a Democratic rally in the town hall, laid the prostrate condition of the woolen industry in the Town of Uxbridge to the gold standard.

(283) The Telephone

Nov. 4. "The local telephone is now in successful operation with the center office at L. F. Sumner's store."

(284) The Composite Club

Dec. The club was formed at the home of Arthur E. Seagrave. At a later date, Albert E. Jones was chosen president.

1899

(285) Hard Times

Jan. This was a dull period in the woolen industry. "Hecla mill is running a small part of its machinery, Sam'l F.

Scott's is now running four days a week time. All the others in town are idle."

(286) The Proprietors' Records of the Town of Mendon

The Town appropriated three hundred dollars for the purpose of paying its share of the expense of copying and printing the records. An additional one hundred dollars was appropriated in 1900.

(287) The Uxbridge Chapter, D. A. R.

Feb. 14. The chapter was organized with Miss Katharine Capron as regent. Later the name was changed to the Deborah Wheelock Chapter.

(288) Blanchard's Granite Quarry

A franchise was granted to Blanchard Bros. to build and operate a street railroad for the transportation of the products of their quarries to the N. Y., N. H. & H. railway tracks. The cars were to be drawn by horses.

(289) The Almshouse

Apr. 28. The state inspector of almshouses in his 1898 report had criticized severely the condition of the Uxbridge institution. By this date, the almshouse had been thoroughly renovated with the intent of making it a model house for the poor.

(290) Day and Puffer's Orchestra.

The orchestra at this period furnished music for dances and other social occasions.

(291) School Children

The total number of children of school age was 608.

THE HECLA MILLS, 1926
This site in use in 1825

THE WAUCANTUCK MILLS, INC. 1926
The water power was in use here in 1825

(292) Davis and Brown Woolen Company

The company, with a mill and office on the Mumford, was incorporated with A. Otis Davis as treasurer. The mill used by this company is the original structure built by John Capron in 1820.

1900

(293) The C. A. Root Company

Charles A. Root started business in the Wheelocksville mill.

(294) The North Uxbridge School Building

The building was erected at a cost of $16,000.

(295) The Uxbridge and Northbridge Electric Co.

Jul. The company bought of George Z. Taft the land still used as the site of a power station.

(296) The Elm Trees

Work was first done on the elm trees to prevent the ravages of the elm leaf beetle.

(297) The Automobile

This year Christian Gredig had a *Stanley Steamer*, the first automobile in the Town.

(298) Population

The population was 3,599.

1901

(299) St. Mary's Cemetery

The St. Mary's cemetery, the site of which was a pasture bought of Sullivan Seagrave about 1852, was much improved

under the direction of the Rev. Edward L. Judge. At this time the society already had on hand a small fund raised for the cemetery, which fund was added to the amount raised by Father Judge. After the improvements were made the cemetery was incorporated.

(300) The Uxbridge Grange, P. of H.

Jan. The grange was organized.

(301) School Superintendent

A union with Douglas for the purpose of hiring a school superintendent was again formed. Charles A. Bates was superintendent.

(302) The Milford and Uxbridge Electric Road

Dec. 20. The electric road was completed and "about 1:05 o'clock a special car, containing many Milford men, among them the board of selectmen of that town, left music hall for the first trip to Uxbridge. . . . When the car arrived in Mendon a general jubilation was going on, cannons were fired, bells rung and numerous other methods were adopted by the people of that heretofore isolated town to show their appreciation of the new enterprise. Many houses were decorated and the people ceased their labor in order that they might be present to give the first car over the line a royal send-off. Here the party was joined by the Mendon selectmen and the run continued to Uxbridge. . . . When the latter destination was reached the party was given 45 minutes to take in the sights of Uxbridge and they did if for fair. The local business stores were visited and the public library. When the car returned to Milford it carried in addition to the Milford and Mendon party the following Uxbridge men: Selectmen, F. J. Hamilton, C. W. Scott, and E. A. Mansfield,

Vice President and Director Arthur R. Taft, C. A. Root, J. R. Scott, G. W. Hobbs, H. G. Sessions, H. E. Gunn, Arthur Wheelock, A. S. Allen, and B. J. Blanchard. The run back to Milford occupied an hour".

Later in the week a trip was made over the road by the children of the Wheelocksville school as the guests of Arthur Wheelock.

"About 70 happy young pupils made merry in these two special cars which were very prettily decorated with flags, and nothing escaped their observation. Many of these little ones had never before had the pleasure of riding in an electric car and this first experience was a genuine novelty that was greatly appreciated."

1902

(303) The Telephone

All night service began at the telephone exchange in Gunn's block.

(304) Taft Bros. Block

A brick block built on the site of the old Taft's block (the original Capron building) was opened.

(305) The Shuttle Shop

Feb. About 10.30 one night in February the old Shuttle Shop was gutted by fire.

(306) Lake Nipmuc Park

May 30. The park was formally opened to the public.

(307) Blanchard's Granite Quarry

Since 1899 B. J. Blanchard and Sons had been running a railroad to carry stone quarried at their works to the tracks of

the steam railroad. The cars had to cross Main street near the Baptist church. When the company began to haul these cars by a steam engine, there was a strong protest from citizens who drove spans of blooded horses, against such a horror on the highways. The Blanchards tried to disguise the engine by hitching horses on for the trip across the road. The complaints brought inspectors, one from the railroad reported that, while the company was in direct violation of the law, yet the operation was being conducted with the greatest possible care. The B. J. Blanchard and Sons were encouraged to apply for a franchise to use steam. This franchise was granted in 1902.

(308) The Samaritan Society

Jul. 16. The society was organized with Mrs. W. E. Hayward as president, Mrs. Kate Thom, custodian, and a membership of one hundred and fifty-three. One hundred dollars worth of supplies were bought and a store room provided in the town hall.

A forerunner of this kind of a society was maintained by Dr. L. D. White. Notice in the Compendium of July 1, 1898, shows that while people were ready to borrow they were not always prompt to return. "Notice—All persons having books and sick room appliances belonging to me, will please return same. Leonard D. White." Dr. White's medical library was of the very best and his surgical instruments were complete in every department.

(309) The Uxbridge and Blackstone Street Railway

The railway began running at this date. The position of the tracks on North Main street opposite St. Mary's church was a subject of much controversy. The road at this point was finally widened.

1903

(310) The North Uxbridge Fire Station

The town erected an engine house on Main Street, North Uxbridge, and fitted it with suitable apparatus. Expense, $2,403.75.

(311) The Water Works

May The question of increasing the water supply still agitated the town meetings. "There is a strong feeling abroad in the town that this water business is not being handled in a proper manner."

(312) The Sidewalks

Jun. The Town voted the sum of $500 to construct concrete sidewalks, the expense to be divided between the Town and the abuttors.

(313) The Uxbridge and Blackstone Street Railway Company

Jul. The railway extended its tracks to the Whitins depot.

(314) The General Hancock Cannon

Jul. 4. "For a number of years it has been the custom to take this historic old cannon out of its quarters in the G. A. R. hall on Douglas street on the night preceding the 4th and on the stroke of midnight and a couple of hours after, use it as a herald to announce the anniversary of our country's birth, its detonations vibrating through the valley and causing untold misery to the sleepy beings devoid of patriotism. Last Friday evening William L. Whitmore, Charles G. Salmon, and Justin Shippy, members of the Sons of Veterans' camp, conveyed the cannon to the top of Carney Hill, permission having

been obtained from the G. A. R. post. . . . the last charge fired caused the old gun to burst with a report that shook things up considerable and filled the air with hundreds of pieces of flying iron, one of which struck near a shed on the land of Rufus Lee about one thousand feet away and which, when weighed, tipped the scales at exactly 74 pounds. . . . When the cannon burst Messrs. Whitmore, Salmon and Shippy were within 15 feet of it and it is a miracle that they were not torn to pieces by the flying iron."

1904

(315) The Shuttle Shop

Gideon M. Aldrich purchased the remains of the *Shuttle Shop* and set up a building where L. S. Aldrich later had an iron and woodworking business. The building is now Howard Ramsey's shop. The mineral spring which Dr. Willard used for his patients is under this building.

(316) Moving Pictures

The first mention of moving pictures was an account of an exhibition given by the *Belmont Moving Picture Company* on the evening of Memorial Day.

(317) Malaria

The townspeople were still afflicted with malaria. Dr. L. D. White was still urging that stagnant ponds be drained or covered with oil.

(318) The Whitinsville Transcript

Jul. 22. The first issue of the *Transcript* was published. Edward T. McShane was editor. The paper was financed by business men of the Town.

(319) The Uxbridge Creamery

Aug. The company, as it was no longer a profitable concern, went out of business.

(320) The Deborah Wheelock Chapter, D. A. R.

Sept. 30. The chapter was incorporated.

(321) The Water Works

Sept. A water committee, consisting of James Daley, Arthur R. Taft, Everett E. Albee, Gideon M. Aldrich, Waldo E. Rawson, and Samuel F. Scott, was appointed early in the year. The committee was instructed to find a source from which the whole Town could be supplied with water. James A. Daley was chairman and Arthur R. Taft, secretary. The members spent much time searching for an abundant pure supply of water. Many samples of water were examined by state experts. At last in September the hard months of work were rewarded with success.

"The investigations made by the water committee on the land of Charles A. Henry in the east part of the town, have proven to be the best of all, quality of water and quantity, the two essentials. The state board of health puts the quality of water taken at this place almost on an equal with that used by the fifteen hundred people supplied from the present reservoir. The test for quantity as far as made is also good. The committee feels much encouraged over the findings. The location was suggested by S. F. Scott. . . . From various points of view the solving of the water question takes on a decidedly pleasing aspect."

(322) The Church of the Good Shepherd

Oct. 19. In 1904, the Catholic population in the north part of the Town and the southern part of Northbridge had

become so large that the Church of the Good Shepherd was established with the Rev. A. Henry Powers as rector. The first service was held in the old electric power station that had been fitted for the purpose.

1905

(323) The Water Works

Feb. The estimated cost of constructing the new water works as submitted by F. L. Fuller, the engineer, was $75,790.

(324) The Prospect Hill Cemetery

Mar. 28. The cemetery was incorporated and at the organization meeting Arthur R. Taft was elected president. A committee was appointed to confer with "Henry Capron, C. C. Capron, and Charles E. Seagrave, the committee who now control the cemetery for the transfer of the title". In June the latter committee transferred their interest in the cemetery to the new corporation.

(325) The Calumet Woolen Company

Apr. The Calumet and Hecla mills were sold at auction; the company liquidated, and went out of business. Since the panic of 1893, these mills had not run steadily. Arthur Wheelock purchased the Calumet, naming the mill the Stanley Woolen Company. The American Woolen Company purchased the Hecla. The tenement houses belonging to the Calumet corporation were sold at auction to real estate agent, who later sold to individuals.

(326) The Uxbridge Worsted Co.

May This company was formed by Louis Bachmann of New York and Charles A. Root, occupying part of what is now the Waucantuck Mills.

(327) The Water Works

Jun. 24. The Town voted to install a new system of water works to be located on the Henry land and constructed under the direction of F. L. Fuller.

(328) Tramps

A state law passed this year regarding the harboring of tramps except in buildings especially provided, where sanitary conditions had been approved by the state board of health, freed Uxbridge from what had long been a nuisance.

(329) The C. A. Root Company

The company was incorporated. Later the name was changed to the Waucantuck Mills, Inc., when W. J. Brady became treasurer.

(330) The First Congregational Society

A Sketch of the History of the First Congregational Society of Uxbridge was published by the Rev. Cyrus A. Roys.

1906

(331) A Great Fire

Jan. 7. A fire destroyed S. B. Taft's block, built on the former Gredig location, and the Goldthwaite block. This was the third building lost by Mr. Goldthwaite. The fire was controlled by the home department. The loss was about $40,000.

(332) Baseball

One of the many baseball teams, named The Heclas, played winning games this season.

(333) The Hecla Boarding House

The American Woolen Company built a boarding house on Bailey street, Hecla village.

(334) The Water Works

The water works were completed. "The pumps had a capacity of about three hundred gallons in ten hours. As the reservoir full held over five hundred gallons, it required about three days of ten hours pumping to fill it. The reservoir filled gave not far from one hundred and twenty-five pounds pressure to a square inch, a pressure that will send a clean inch and a half stream over every steeple or tower in town if the hose will stand the pressure."

(335) The Edward C. Thayer Fund

Oct. The Town received from the executors of the will of Julia B. Thayer $17,000. The income from the fund was to be used for school purposes.

(336) The Library Literary Club

Nov. 6. The first of a series of literary courses, conducted by this club, began on this evening. The club was conducted in connection with the free public library. Meetings were held in library hall. The librarian acted as secretary. The club continued for fourteen seasons, the last literary course being given in the season of 1920-1921.

(337) The Telephone

There were one hundred and twenty-six telephones.

1907

(338) The Orion Chapter, Eastern Star

Feb. 13. The chapter was organized with Mrs. Harriet Whitmore as matron and William Waterhouse as patron.

(339) The Church of the Good Shepherd

Jul. The edifice of the church, located on Church street, North Uxbridge, was completed.

(340) The Commercial Course

The course was introduced into the high school in the fall term. The expense was met by the Edward C. Thayer Fund and later by the additional money received from the Thayer School Fund.

(341) Labor Laws

The mills ceased to employ minors under eighteen and women between six P. M. and six A. M.

1908

(342) The Thayer School Fund

The Town was paid $22,600 from the residue of the estate of Julia B. Thayer. The amount was gained by the return of property given to the Town of Keene, N. H., for a library building by Edward C. Thayer.

(343) School Savings

A system of savings was established in the grade schools by Mrs. Arthur Wheelock. Within a period of six years thereafter the children had deposited $5,000.

(344) The Finance Committee

This committee to take charge of the Town expenditure was first established.

(345) The Telephone

The office of the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company was moved to S. B. Taft's block. One hundred and seventy-two subscribers were listed.

(346) Old Home Week

Sept. 21. "What a delightful week Uxbridge had. The weather was good. The preparations were complete. Bunting was profuse. Never was a country town more profusely or skillfully decorated. The Agricultural Fair was a brilliant success, and it is hoped the Macomber Day was highly acceptable. The parade was way above the high water mark. But over and above all the souvenir should be mentioned. It was without doubt a great success. One hundred and twelve portraits, of these there were eighty-one different family names. . . . I heard one adverse criticism on the work. That was that the ladies including the wives of three men were omitted. Mrs. Macomber stands alone. . . . One thing in Judge Putnam's address struck me as an important matter. The valuation of the property in the town a third of a century ago was less than $1,900,000 while the last valuation was more than $2,900,000. An increase in thirty years of a full million and more. That speaks well for the intelligence, industry and prosperity of the town."

1909

(347) The Uxbridge Worsted Company

Apr. The company, managed by Charles A. Root, purchased the mill at the center owned by J. R. and C. W. Scott. This mill is still a part of the company's plant.

(348) The Uxbridge Inn

Apr. Charles C. Ames bought of John R. Sayles Hotel Windsor. Mr. Ames throughly renovated the hotel and reopened it under the name, *The Uxbridge Inn.*

(349) Fire Alarm Whistle

A whistle was placed on the electric light station. The Unitarian bell was no longer rung for fires.

(350) The Laurel Brook Club

A farm in South Uxbridge was purchased by some hundred Boston men for a fish and game club. The club own about three hundred acres of woodland. Several ponds are stocked with trout. In 1921 the first club house burned. Later a new building was constructed.

(351) The Worcester and Blackstone Valley Street Railway

Dec. 31. The Uxbridge and Blackstone Street Railway Company was consolidated with the above company.

(352) The Prospect Hill Cemetery

The cemetery association purchased a plot of one and one half acres of land from Henry Capron to gain an entrance to their property. The town still owns the old part of the cemetery into which the main entrance leads. The association has a right of way over the Town's land but decided to have an

entrance of its own. The Fund of the corporation at this date was $35,000.

(353) President William H. Taft

April 3. President William H. Taft, enroute for Millbury, stopped at the railway station and greeted about two hundred people, while standing on the rear platform of his private car.

"Uxbridge! I suppose I have more relatives here than in any other place in this Country! As the cheer from the throng subsided, he said, 'Aren't there any Tafts here?' The response, 'Plenty of them,' came from the crowd and little Myrtice Taft, six year old daughter of W. J. Taft and wife, exclaimed, 'Here is one,' The President reached down and shook the little girl's hand and spoke kindly to her. . . . As the train left the station the President remained upon the platform and was still standing there when the train rounded the curve north of the station. He was gazing off on the hills which surrounded Uxbridge, the ancestral home of his forefathers."

On August 19th, the President made a hurried visit to Mendon and Uxbridge from his headquarters with Gov. Eben S. Draper in Hopedale. The principal object of the trip was to view the George Z. Taft place on South Main street. This was the ancestral farm of his great, great, great-grandfather, Joseph Taft. (Peter Rawson Taft, the President's grandfather, was born in Uxbridge.) Mr. and Mrs. George Z. Taft had the honor of shaking hands with their kinsman, then the President of the United States. Upon this trip, the *Taft Tavern* in North Uxbridge was also visited.

(354) Oil Used on the Streets

Jul. The dust on the main streets was laid by oil. W. E. Hayward furnished a new cart constructed to distribute oil.

(355) The Chester House

The building, now in part occupied by the co-operative store, was built for a boarding house by Miss L. Annie Fisher.

(356) The Happy Hollow Mill

Sept. 1. The mill used by Jerome E. Farnum to store his products from the Lee mill was burned.

(357) The Deborah Wheelock Chapter House

Oct. The former Simeon Wheelock house was given by Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Hayward to the Deborah Wheelock Chapter, D. A. R., for a Chapter House. The chapter restored the house.

(358) Electric Lights

Nov. The incandescent street lights were changed to Tungsten lights.

(359) The Red Cross Seals

Dec. The seals were first sold this year, the proceeds being used in tuberculosis work. At this time the sales were managed by the Samaritan Society, Dr. M. R. Griswold distributing the stamps to the school children who peddled them. Later the County Health Association sold the seals under the direction of the resident Unitarian minister. The proceeds are used to support the general work and to help Uxbridge children. Mrs. Ida A. Mansfield later acted as an agent, assisting in the county work and providing for Uxbridge needs.

(360) Population

The population was 4,671.

1911

(361) The Worcester Suburban Electric Company

This company, recently formed, opened a new office in S. B. Taft's block. The plant was enlarged. Twenty-two villages in seven towns were being supplied with light and one hundred miles of streets lighted. The Millbury Electric Light Company had been purchased and a sub-station established on Riverlin street.

(362) The Uxbridge Council, K. of C.

May The council was instituted.

(363) The Worcester Consolidated Street Railway Company

May 11. The Worcester and Blackstone Valley Street Railway Company was consolidated with the above company.

(364) Labor Laws

May 27. A Massachusetts law limited the work in the mills of women and children to fifty-four hours per week.

(365) The Washington Trip

The senior class of the high school first went to Washington.

(366) An Agricultural Agent

The first county agent, Charles H. White, was appointed to work with the farmers of Worcester county.

(367) A Primary Election

The first primary election, for the nomination of candidates, was held in the lower town hall. At this time, W. A. L. Bazeley was a candidate for representative.

1912

(368) The D. A. R. Tea House

Jul. The tea house was conducted for the first time this season. The success of the innovation was beyond the expectations of all. Over four hundred dollars was cleared, which money was used to pay off the debt incurred by renovating the chapter house.

(369) The Wheelocksville School House

An addition was built to the school house.

1913

(370) The Worcester Suburban Electric Company

At this date, the power station was in the hands of the above company and both were controlled by C. D. Parker and Company of Boston.

(371) Shade Trees

In the spring the Town entered a tree planting contest arranged by the Massachusetts Forestry Association. Uxbridge planted five hundred and sixty trees and stood fifth in the list of competing towns—not high enough to win the prize of a mile of shade trees.

(372) A Tree Spraying Apparatus

An apparatus to use on the elm trees was bought.

(373) The Uxbridge Compendium

Apr. 1. In 1912, L. H. Balcome had sold the Compendium to William J. Kelley. One morning in July the plant of the paper was found wrecked and its proprietor missing. Mr.

Balcome, who held a mortgage on the property, had to resort to legal measures to get possession of his printing equipment. That was the last of the old Compendium, which since 1873 had furnished the news of the Town.

(374) The Trolley Freight

Apr. 23. The Worcester Consolidated Street Railway Company began to run freight cars through the Town.

(375) School Gardens

The Public School Association for a number of years offered prizes of books for the best gardens cultivated in each grade of the public schools, one for the boys and one for the girls. Mrs. W. A. L. Bazeley was the promoter of the work.

(376) Medical Examination in the Schools

The town records contain the first reports of the school physicians.

(377) The Watering Trough

Arthur R. Taft presented to the Town the granite watering trough now in front of the railroad station. The trough was to replace the old granite tub that long stood in the center. It was necessary to remove the latter to make room for the car tracks.

(378) The Ironstone School

Aug. The school house in this district was burned.

(379) The Town Accounting

Oct. Upon the recommendation of the state auditors, a new system of accounting for the Town books was begun.

(380) The Schools

A large addition was built upon the center school building.

(381) The Starlings

These birds, a European species, first appeared in Uxbridge.

1914

(382) A Bridge Over the Mumford

Mar. 2. The Town voted to build a concrete girder bridge on Mendon street over the Mumford.

(383) The New England Power Company

Mar. 13. The control of the power station passed from the Worcester Suburban Electric Company to the New England Power Company. The electric company became a distributing company. Since this date there has been a relay station on the New England Power transmission system located in Uxbridge.

(384) The Bank Building

Jun. 15. The Blackstone National Bank and the Uxbridge Savings Bank opened for business in their new building. Safe deposit boxes in a fire-proof vault were a valuable addition to the service of the National Bank.

(385) Malaria

A member of the state board of health visited the Town in response to a petition signed by more than four hundred and fifty Uxbridge people, asking that something be done towards the prevention of malaria. The state board reported that the complete eradication of the mosquitoes would be most expensive and difficult. Dr. W. L. Johnson, Dr. George T.

Little, and Dr. W. J. Ledbury, the Town board of health, in May, 1915, had many of the ponds and set backs of the rivers oiled, cleaned up dumping places, and made every effort to free the citizens from the menace of the disease.

(386) The Common

The Common was improved by grading, setting a curb about the lot, and laying a granolithic walk along the east side. The W. C. T. U. erected a new drinking fountain at the south end.

(387) The Band Stand

Oct. The old band stand upon the Common was taken down. Uxbridge no longer had a brass band.

(388) Street Lighting

The Town voted to light the whole Town all night and every night from January 1st to April 1st.

(389) A Fire Whistle

A new fire whistle blown by compressed air was placed in the tower of the town hall. The system was to be operated from the local telephone exchange. Cards with numbers for the several districts were printed for distribution. The discarded whistle that was removed from the Worcester Suburban Electric Company's plant had been given by the Hon. Winfield Schuster. The electric company could no longer blow the whistle because an arrangement was being made to get power from the New England Power Company.

(390) School Children

The schools had nine hundred and fifty-seven children registered.

1915

(391) Sidewalks

Granolithic sidewalks were laid in the center to replace the concrete ones.

(392) Basket Ball

For several seasons previous to this one basket ball had been played in the town hall by the high school teams. This season the school had a champion team. Albert Tracy, George McDermott, Merton Pennell, Ernest Wood, and Herbert Cook.

(394) A Community Christmas Tree

The first tree of the kind was illuminated on the Common free of charge by the Worcester Suburban Electric Company on Christmas eve. A musical and speaking program was given and a Santa Claus distributed popcorn and candy to the children.

(395) The Ironstone School

A new school building was erected.

(396) Population

The population was 4,921.

1916

(397) The Ladies' Aid to the Father Mathew Total Abstinence Society

Jan. 10. The Ladies' Aid was formed.

(398) The High School Cadets

Feb. Military drill was introduced as a part of the curriculum.

(399) The Booster

Feb. 10. This newspaper, edited by Carlton W. Taft, was started. The paper was later called the Blackstone Valley News.

(400) The Boy Scouts

Apr. The first troop of Boy Scouts was started in connection with the free public library. Roy B. Huddleston, until he enlisted in the navy, was scout master.

(401) The District Nurse

The Uxbridge Samaritan Society hired a nurse to act as a Town nurse. Patients were to receive her services free or for a nominal fee. The society paid the expense of the nurse by soliciting funds from business firms and from individuals. Mrs. George Z. Taft was president of the society.

(402) The Town Park

The park was given to the Town by Mrs. Arthur R. Taft in memory of her husband. The gift included about one hundred and fifty acres of woodland and a fund of about $10,000. The income from the money was to be used to improve the property. Three trustees, Charles A. Barton, Theodore A. Southwick, and Charles E. Cook were appointed. Upon the death of a trustee, the vacancy was to be filled by either the president of the board of the Uxbridge Free Public Library or the treasurer of the Uxbridge Savings Bank. A third trustee, when needed was to be selected by the other two. The work of beautifying the park was retarded by the ice storm of 1921. Much of the income from the trust fund since that date has been used to clean out the broken trees.

1917

(403) The World War

Apr. 16. The first patriotic meeting was held in the town hall. The chairman of the selectmen, Robert H. Newell, presided. The assembly showed the greatest enthusiasm during the musical and speaking program. A committee of some fifty or sixty people was appointed to choose sub-committes to work for the public safety.

(404) The Massachusetts National Guard

Mar. 27. A meeting of the guard was held in the town hall to recruit for enlistments. The guard was to be raised to full strength. Jefferson Rawson, Earl H. Seagrave, George Seagrave, Francis Leonard, Roland J. Graves, Elma A. McFarland, and John Davis offered themselves for active service and were accepted.

(405) The Manawa Tribe, A. O. R. M.

Mar. 12. The tribe was organized with Oliver E. Wolcott as sachem. Of the thirty-five charter members, eighteen saw service in the World War.

(406) The American Red Cross

Previous to the declaration of war, the members of the Deborah Wheelock Chapter organized under the Massachusetts Preparedness Committee to make dressings for any emergency. After the war was declared, the chapter organization became merged in the Uxbridge Branch of the American Red Cross. Miss Catherine D. Sessions was secretary of the branch and Mrs. Ida I. Mansfield, treasurer. The work rooms were in the upper story of the Thayer Memorial Building and in the Chapter House. In North Uxbridge, a section worked

in the old Rogerson hall under the direction of Mrs. James Whitin. The branch made 2,516 sewed articles, 1,894 knitted articles, 3,233 surgical dressings, and raised the money to carry on its work. Drives were held for Red Cross funds. One very fine parade was staged.

(407) The Liberty Loan Campaigns

May. The Liberty Loan campaigns were started by Charles A. Barton, who acted as a chairman to encourage the sale of bonds in Town and in the vicinity towns. In 1918, Charles A. Root managed the bond sales. Mass meetings and a parade stimulated the campaigns.

(408) The Massachusetts State Guard

May 11. A meeting was held under the auspices of what was then known as the Home Guard in the lower town hall. Forty men enlisted for service. Later in the month the guard organized with Daniel H. Reese, captain, and Edward T. McShane, 1st lieutenant, Arthur E. Seagrave, 2d lieutenant. In October, the battalion of which Uxbridge was a unit mobilized on the grounds of the American Woolen Company under the command of Col. John F. Hurley.

(409) The Conservation Committees

Two committees, one of the men, headed by Stanley H. Wheelock, the other of the women with Mrs. Beatrice P. Sprague as chairman, attempted to acquaint the Town with the changing food regulations and to stimulate saving. Canning and food exhibitions were given, public meetings were held, and a market, where farmers brought produce to sell to housewives, was conducted about the Common.

(410) THE HIGH SCHOOL

May The school began upon a schedule of one-sessions. "This action was taken by the committee upon the request of the parents of a number of boys who attend school in order that the boys may help with the planting on the farm because it is impossible to hire helpers on account of the high wages paid in the machine shops."

(411) THE FLAG POLE

The Town erected a new steel flag pole on the Common.

(412) REGISTRATION FOR MILITARY SERVICE

Jun. A list of the men between twenty-one and thirty inclusive was published in the Booster, June 28, 1917. The law then required two-thirds of one per cent of the population of a city or town to be drawn for military service. The Town's quota was thirty-three men.

(413) ST. MARY'S CIRCLE, D. OF I.

Jun. 3. The circle was instituted with Mrs. Thomas Malley as regent.

(414) UNION OF CHURCHES

Sept. The First Congregational Society and the First Evangelical Congregational Church united for services as an economic war measure. The minister of the latter, the Rev. Alexander Wiswall, acted as minister. The Union lasted until the summer of 1919.

(415) EXEMPTION BOARD, DIVISION 17

Sept. 26. The board began its examination of men who claimed exemption from military service. Francis P. Brady,

Francis Prescott, and Dr. William E. Balmer constituted the board.

(416) Camp Devens

Oct. 5. The first contingent of drafted men left for Camp Devens.

(417) The Chautauqua

Jun. The Swarthmore Chautauqua held its first session in a tent on the Capron lot on Mendon street.

(418) Blanchard's Granite Quarry

At the granite quarry, the last section of a $250,000 United States government contract to furnish stone to wall Ellis Island was being completed.

1918

(419) The Uxbridge and Whitinsville Transcript

Jan. The paper was last issued in this month.

(420) The Registration of Aliens

Feb. 4, 9. Alien enemies were required to register at the post office.

(421) Shortage of Fuel

The shortage of fuel caused the price of coal and wood to mount rapidly. Coal was $10.50 per ton, wood from $10.00 to $14.00 per cord. Bituminous coal was bought to heat the school buildings.

(422) Heatless Days

"The heatless Mondays are a joke in Uxbridge. Very little attention is paid to the regulation. It is a case of 'If he does it, then I'll do it' ".

(423) Books for Soldiers and Sailors

Two drives were conducted by the Free Public Library to obtain books for the soldiers' camps and the ships of the navy. The Town contributions were liberal, money as well as reading matter was given.

(424) The Third Liberty Loan Parade

Apr. 20. A successful parade was used to stimulate the buying of this issue. "First came the 104th infantry band from Camp Devens, the crack musical organization of the state and one whose services are coveted by the largest cities. The presence of this organization in line was due to the kindness of Charles A. Root, who personally defrayed all the expense attached to bringing the men here and entertaining them while they were in Uxbridge." The boys from Camp Devens were brought in Uxbridge automobiles to take part in the parade. The State Guard, Boy Scouts, bands, drum corps, societies, merchants, and mills were all represented in this procession.

(425) The Influenza Epidemic

Owing to the severity of the epidemic, the schools, and the library were closed during the month, while the churches omitted some of their services. All public gatherings were discouraged.

(426) Magazine Awards

This year Charles A. Root began his annual practice of awarding a magazine to the pupil in each grade, who had been neither absent nor tardy during a school year.

(427) The Armistice Celebration

Nov. 11. Much noise and a night parade with one hundred and fifty automobiles in line, as well as floats and fire works, celebrated the end of the war.

(428) WORLD WAR SOLDIERS AND SAILORS

The number of men called to the colors from the Town was two hundred and seventy-two. Twelve men were lost.

(429) WAR FUNDS

	Quota	Subscribers	Amount
First Liberty Loan	None	5786	$200,000
Second " "	"	1093	263,000
Third " "	$300,000	1319	385,900
Fourth " "	400,000	1498	503,300
Fifth " "	250,000	1105	306,400
Red Cross War Fund, 1917		8000	8,817
" " " " 1918		8000	12,230
United War Work Drive		9000	16,088
Salvation Army Drive		1200	1,565
War Saving Stamps sold at post office			38,000
			$1,735,300

Drives were conducted for the Knights of Columbus, Young Men's Christian Association and other organizations of which there is no record.

(430) CLOTH FOR THE SOLDIERS

S. F. Scott & Sons, Convalescent army cloth		200,000
Stanley Woolen Company—		
French blue overcoating	86,000	
U. S. khaki overcoating	40,000	
U. S. khaki suiting	155,000	
U. S. khaki suiting	194,000	
Italian marine cloth	25,000	
Total		500,000

Uxbridge Worsted Company—	
Army cloth	1,445,175
Waucantuck Mills—	
Army cloth	980,000
Total yardage of army cloth	3,125,175

1919

(431) The Blackstone National Bank

The bank opened its savings department.

(432) The Housing Problem

A great shortage of houses and tenements sometimes made it necessary for men to refuse work in the mills.

(433) Labor Laws

By a Massachusetts law, minors under sixteen years of age were not allowed to work in the mills more than eight hours in a day or forty-eight hours in a week. No minor or woman could be employed more than nine hours in a day or forty-eight hours in a week.

(434) The Rivulet Mill

The mill was purchased by the Uxbridge Worsted Company from the Bridgeton Worsted Company.

(435) Pout Pond

The pond and its surrounding land was bought by Charles A. Root. Mr. Root at once opened his property for a public bathing place, building bath houses for the men and women and putting a raft on the pond. Pout Pond had always been a favorite recreation spot, the former owners having been hospitable to picnics and bathers, but no facilities had pre-

viously been provided. Dr. Robbins, a noted botanist, considered the pond an interesting field for study. He particularly admired its lovely pink-tinted water lillies, the outside leaves the color of bronze.

(436) The Charles A. Rice Post, A. L.

Jul. 4. The post was instituted with Albert J. Tracy as commander. Charles A. Rice for whom the post was named was a native of Uxbridge. Educated in the public schools of the Town, at Powder Point Academy, and at the University of Maine, he was at the time of his death twenty-six years of age. Both at his academy and at his college, he had the reputation of being one of the most popular men and of the finest athletes. As a track runner, his reputation was nation wide. In Uxbridge, he was respected and loved. Serving overseas with the 5th Division, he won his commission as lieutenant for bravery on the field of battle. During the British drive in Flanders, Lieutenant Rice was wounded in the thigh. In a British field hospital, far from his family and from the friends with whom he had enlisted, he died Dec. 22, 1919. Towards the service of his country, he freely gave his finely trained mind and body. For him the great problem of duty has been solved finely and completely.

(437) The Iola Rebekah Lodge

Nov. 15. The lodge was instituted.

1920

(438) The Woman's Auxiliary Unit of the Charles A. Rice Post

Apr. 9. The post was instituted with Mrs. Ralph Higgins as president.

(439) The Uxbridge Inn, Inc.

The Uxbridge Inn was purchased from the C. C. Ames Estate by Charles A. Root and Charles D. Whitney, who thoroughly renovated the interior and exterior.

(440) The School Nurse

The Samaritan Society appointed Miss Susan Allen as a nurse to work for the physical welfare of the children. The cost of the nurse was at first wholly defrayed by the society; two town meetings having previously voted not to employ such a nurse. The first year one-half of the amount raised by the sale of Christmas seals was used for the salary of this school nurse.

(441) Women Voters

At once when suffrage was granted to women, the Republican women were organized into a division of the town committee with Mrs. Beatrice P. Sprague as chairman. Miss Mary Kane worked as chairman of the Democratic women. A great effort was made to have all women of voting age register regardless of party. Before the primaries, three hundred and seventy women had registered, but only one hundred and twenty-eight voted; all but two of these voters were Republicans. The Republican women conducted an educational campaign to instruct the new voters regarding the procedure when casting a ballot.

(442) Women Voters

Nov. 3. "All but twenty-nine women out of a total registration of seven hundred and sixty-nine cast their ballots at the election yesterday. It was remarkable to note how many women had thoroughly posted themselves upon the voting proposition before, and went into the booths and marked their

ballots with the ease of persons who had voted for years. The majority of the women voted in the forenoon, which greatly expedited the counting, as this town was one of the first in the district to furnish the tabulation of the results."

(443) Fuel Shortage

Owing to the coal strike, bitumous coal was bought for the school buildings. Anthracite coal reached $22.50 and $25.00 per ton.

(444) Population

The population was 5,384.

1921

(445) The Nipmuck Council, D. of P.

Feb. 28. The council was instituted.

(446) The School Nurse

Mar. The Town voted to appropriate $1000 for the support of the school nurse. The nurse was to be managed by the Samaritan Society, which society was to pay any additional expense.

(447) By-Laws

New Town by-laws were adopted.

(448) The Chief of Police

The Town first had a chief of police. Patrick Carmody was appointed to fill the office. The first traffic regulations arranged by the selectmen were carried out under the new chief's direction.

(449) Voting Precincts

The Town was divided into two voting precincts.

(450) State Reforestation

Apr. William A. L. Bazeley, state commissioner of conservation, deeded to the State of Massachusetts sixty-five acres of land on the westerly side of South Main street near his residence. Foresters planted for the state 6,000 pine trees upon the land. Mr. Bazeley reserved the right to take back the land at any time within ten years by making payment to the state of an amount equal to the sum expended in the work of reforestation.

(451) The Free Public Library

Sept. The library opened a branch in Miss Martha Chase's store. The next year the library was moved to the public school building.

(452) The Fife and Drum Corps

"Uxbridge and vicinity towns were given a rare treat Saturday afternoon at the fair grounds at the competitive drum corps meet conducted by the Uxbridge Fife and Drum Corps. . . . not for years has so much enthusiasm been expressed over any event that occurred here. The novelty of the meeting attracted 2,000 people."

(453) The World War Memorial

Nov. 5. The memorial, designed by Hutchins and French, which cost $20,000, collected by a committee headed by Charles A. Root, was dedicated. The celebration was one of the largest in the history of the Town. Several thousand people, including Gen. Clarence Edwards and the Hon. Samuel W. McCall, thronged the center. A military parade and

exercises about the memorial were the principal features of the occasion. A souvenir of the dedication was published.

(454) The Great Ice Storm

During the last week of the month, the Town and the vicinity was hit by a sleet storm that turned the trees and wires into masses of ice blown about by a furious wind. The storm lasted from Sunday until Wednesday. Trees of every kind suffered but the Norway maples, white birches, and elms bore the brunt of the damage. The stately old elms in the center were torn to pieces, leaving in many cases only broken stumps bare of branching limbs. Wires and poles were torn down. The feed pipe to the pumping station was broken, only heroic work of line men saved the Town from a water famine. The electric light service was badly crippled and more than four hundred telephones were out of order. On the line through to Millbury, one thousand poles were down. Many of the steel towers of the New England Power Company crashed to the ground. The Worcester Suburban had 3,040 poles down and a damage of $87,000.

"The employees of the Worcester Suburban Electric Company and of the New England Power Company put in the hardest two days' work in their lives in an effort to clear the lines of fallen trees and branches while attempting to connect broken wires and repair the circuits of the companies. The men worked like supermen at their task, frequently taking their lives in their hands as they climbed ladders into ice-coated trees to cut off branches that were partly broken and were lying across the lines."

Not until the middle of December was the Worcester Suburban able to serve all the towns upon its lighting circuits. Uxbridge business blocks and residences in the center were all lighted by the end of the week.

(455) The Street List

The Town, having more than five thousand inhabitants, complied with the law and published a street list of all persons twenty years old and over.

1922

(456) The Church of the Good Shepherd

Jun. 25. The parochial school building of this church was dedicated. The Rev. Gideon Fontaine, the rector of the parish, founded the school.

(457) A Supervisor of Music

Sept. Miss Helen Murphy was engaged as supervisor of music. Orchestras and glee clubs formed by her have furnished music for many Town functions.

(458) Domestic Science and Manual Training

These two new subjects were introduced into the eighth grades of the schools.

(459) Polish Workers Sick Mutual Aid Association Branch 157

(Polska Robotnicza Kasa Chorych)

Nov. This Polish society was organized.

(460) Pay Roll Guarded from Bandits

Nov. The Town began to furnish armed guards for the paymasters of the manufacturing plants. This was the first action of the kind by the Town; although in the past each mill had taken measures to protect the men who went to the bank for money. A bandit, who took $740.00 of the Blanchard Bros.' payroll, led to this extra precaution.

(461) The First Evangelical Congregational Church

Dec. The church dedicated its parish house, which had been remodelled from the Arthur R. Taft barn. A large auditorium, bowling alleys, and other recreation features were included in the building. The house on Sundays was limited to the use of the church, but on week days was open to members of the Community Club that had been formed in connection with the parish house. A souvenir of the dedication was published.

1923

(462) The Water Works

Mar. The Town voted $12,500 for securing an additional water supply. This water was obtained the next year by driving sixteen new 40-foot wells on the flat at the pumping station.

(463) The Fire Department

Motorized apparatus—a triple combination fire truck and a forest fire truck—was purchased for the department. Free of charge, the fire truck was kept in the Uxbridge Worsted Company's garage and that company and the Worcester Suburban Electric Company furnished drivers.

(464) A Tractor

The Town voted to purchase a tractor.

(465) The Uxbridge Teachers' Association

Mar. 2. The association was organized.

(466) Street Lighting

Apr. The Worcester Suburban Electric Company placed for the Town nine 60-candle power and three 40-candle power

lights in the center. In addition, the 1000-candle power light in front of the company's office was kept burning until 11.30 P. M. each night.

(467) The Wheelocksville School

The Town appropriated $9,500.00 for an addition to this school.

(468) The Uxbridge Worsted Co., Inc.

May This company was incorporated, including the mills at Uxbridge, Rivulet, Lowell and Woonsocket, R. I. Charles A. Root, treasurer.

(469) The Electrical Show

The show was conducted in the parish house by the Worcester Suburban Electric Company. "Larger shows may have been held in big cities, but none have outclassed this one as far as apparatus and equipment goes."

(470) School Savings System

Oct. A system was established by Millens Taft, treasurer of the Savings Bank. At the end of three years the children had saved $9,062.00.

(471) The Blackstone Valley News

Nov. This paper was last issued.

1924

(472) A Snow Plow

Jan. A snow plow run by the new tractor was successfully tried.

(473) The Fire Department

The Town purchased a fire truck for North Uxbridge.

(474) The Town Farm

The overseers of the poor, Frank J. O'Brien, Steven J. Powers, and Joseph E. Tancrell, reported that work of improving the general condition of the town farm property, which had been under way for the last three years, was completed. A piazza had been the latest comfort provided for the inmates. The home was now in excellent repair, reflecting credit upon the Town.

(475) Parking

Jun. The selectmen established parking zones.

(476) The North Uxbridge Cotton Mills

The mills ceased to manufacture cotton goods, the machinery being sold.

(477) The Motor Inn

Jun. The inn, managed by Llewellyn Farnum, was opened on the Millville road.

1925

(478) The Uxbridge Free Public Library

Jan. 20. The library celebrated, in a severe snow storm, its fiftieth birthday. The papers read at the formal exercises give a complete history of Uxbridge libraries. They have been published.

(479) The H. H. Legg Post, G. A. R.

The post was discontinued. Its records and charter deposited in the historical room of the Thayer Memorial Building.

(480) Motor Coaches

The Farnum stage line began to run busses between Providence and Worcester. Bus riding immediately became popular with the public. Rival transportation companies and the Uxbridge selectmen offered determined opposition to the pioneer line. The Farnum company continued running its coaches until the summer of 1926, when it could no longer compete with a rival bus line managed by the railroad. The Interstate line took over the busses of the Farnum company. Passengers were no longer taken in Uxbridge. By the last of 1926, the Interstate had ceased to run.

(481) The Blackstone National Bank

The bank celebrated its one hundredth anniversary by publishing a souvenir book containing pictures of the Town and of bank officials and a historical sketch of the bank and of the Town.

(482) Night Police

At a special town meeting it was voted to appropriate $2000 for the expense of having two policemen patrol the Town at night. Later these watchmen became a permanent part of the police force.

(483) Valuation

Dec. 31. The valuation was $7,062,425.

(484) Population

The population was 6,172.

1926

(485) Motor Coaches

Jan. 17. The N. Y., N. H. & H. Railway Company established a bus line under the name, the New England

Transportation Company. Busses were run once an hour between Providence and Worcester.

(486) A Town Forest

Mar. The Town voted $750 for the purpose of acquiring, reclaiming, planting, reforestation, fencing, caring for and maintaining or managing lands within the limits of the Town, which shall be a public domain to be devoted to the culture of forest trees. Land—some one hundred and twenty-five acres on Douglas road, known as the Mountain Lot—was purchased for the above purpose from Harry C. Newell for the nominal sum of $100. By November, 5000 white pine trees, given by the state, had been planted.

(487) Fire Gong

Apr. A fire gong was installed on the North Uxbridge engine house. The gong was bought with money returned by the state from surplus soldiers' bonus.

(488) The Uxbridge Rotary Club

May 13. The club received its charter. Albert E. Donald was elected president, Millens W. Taft, treasurer.

(489) St. Mary's Church

Aug. 15. The new edifice of the church on Mendon street was dedicated. Money had been collected for the building through the efforts of the Rev. Patrick J. Meehan and the Rev. Dennis P. Sullivan. The latter was given a purse of $1000 on the occasion of the dedication. Nearly a thousand people witnessed the laying of the corner stone and attended the service. A historical sketch of the church was published.

(490) The Cornet Farnum House

The Uxbridge Worsted Company, Inc., owners of the Cornet Farnum house, where the first town meetings were held, had the house restored and the grounds about it beautified with trees and shrubs.

(491) The Inter-Church Young People's Council

The council was formed with a membership from the four Protestant churches.

(492) The Bijou Theatre

Oct. 22. The theatre, a moving picture and vaudeville house, opened in the old St. Mary's Church, which had been remodelled. The theatre was managed by John Demara.

(493) Street Lighting

The streets were lighted by the Worcester Suburban Electric Light Company with the following lights:

263	40	candle power.
26	80	" "
10	250	" "
1	1000	" "

Total number of lights, 300.

The electric company also had a large electric sign in front of its office in the center.

(494) Telephones

Nov. The number of telephones on the local exchange was 542.

(495) Free Mail Delivery

Dec. 1. The mail began to be delivered by postmen. There were two deliveries a day.

INDEX

Academy building 78, 171, 276
Accounting 379
Agriculture 366
Agricultural Societies, 132, 147, 172, 191
Aliens 420
Armistice 427
Automobiles 297

Bandits 460
Bands 167, 268, 387
Banks—
  Blackstone National, 137, 148, 384, 431, 481
  Savings 146
  School 343, 470
  State 83
Baseball 332
Basket Ball 392
Bicycles 252, 275
Blackstone Canal 81, 87, 117
Books for Soldiers 423
Boy Scouts 400
Bridges 1, 202, 258, 382
British Laws 69, 70
Burying Grounds, 19, 21, 56, 126, 135, 160
By Laws 447

Camp Devens 416
Cannon 314
Capron Block 71, 88, 272
Cemeteries—
  Prospect Hill, 56, 127, 130, 196, 324, 352
  St. Mary's 299
Chautauqua 417
Churches—
  Baptist 107, 183
  Congregational, 89, 90, 95, 226, 414, 461
Churches—
  First 3, 11, 13, 60, 89
  Good Shepherd 322, 339, 456
  Methodist 159, 175
  St. Mary's 119, 124, 128, 489
  Unitarian 89, 99, 330, 414
Civil War 133, 134, 140
Clock 145
Cloth for Soldiers 139, 430
Clothing for Soldiers 42, 48
Common 10, 25, 58, 386
Community Christmas Tree 394
Congressman 73
Conservation 409
Constitutional Convention 125
Cornet Farnum House 490
Counties 2, 15
Courts 62, 149, 195
Creamery 227, 319
Croquet 169

Dark Day 184
Democratic Victory 235
Depots 225, 240, 250, 254
Draft 412, 415, 416
Drinking Fountains 234, 386
Dyeing and finishing 71

Electric Companies, 212, 239, 295, 361, 370, 383
Electric Lights 204, 205, 207, 358
Electric Show 469
Engine House 310
Equal Suffrage 23, 441, 442
Exemption Board 415

Fife and Drum Corps 452
Finance Committee 344
Financial Storm 102
Fire Alarm 349, 389, 487

INDEX

Fire Department 310, 463, 473
Fires 257, 272, 331
Fiscal Year 242
Flag Pole 215, 411
Flower Mission 228
Forests 450, 486
Friends 6, 28, 31
Fuel Shortage 421, 443

Grade Crossing 251, 258
Granite Quarry, 138, 152, 163, 288, 307, 418

Hard Times 102, 236, 282, 285
Hardware Business 231
Hartford Turnpike 24
Heatless Days 422
Historical Accounts, 53, 55, 68, 78, 81, 158, 173, 179, 195, 218, 226, 249, 258, 330, 346, 453, 461, 478, 481, 489
Horse Sheds 59
Hotels and Boarding Houses, 63, 94, 182, 186, 193, 200, 333, 348, 355, 439, 477
Houses 155, 432

Ice 263
Ice Storm 454
Incorporation 2
Influenza 425

Labor, 123, 156, 221, 233, 262, 364, 433
Lake Nipmuc Park 306
Liberty Loans 407, 424
Libraries 38, 153, 161, 177, 249, 451 478
Liquor Question, 9, 94, 157, 230, 243, 253
Lockup 180, 187

Machinery 44, 66, 70, 77, 80
Mail 68, 495
Malaria 271, 317, 385
Memcrial Day 222
Mendon 32
Military Draft 415
Militia Companies, 37, 74, 91, 133, 404, 408
Mills, Cotton—
  Clapp 67
  Ironstone 72
  Rogerson 75, 102
  Uxbridge Cotton Mills 118, 476
Mills, Woolen—
  Calumet 201, 325
  Capron 80
  Central 123, 139
  Davis & Brown 292
  Day 66
  Emerson Brook 98
  Forge Brook 82
  Happy Hollow 136, 356
  Hecla 85, 201, 325
  Rivulet 69, 434
  Root, C. A 293, 329
  Scott & Sons 66, 430
  Stanley 325, 430
  Taft, Luke 84
  Uxbridge Woolen 85
  Uxbridge Worsted, 326, 347, 430, 434, 468
  Waucantuck Mills 84, 329, 430
Mineral Spring 315
Ministers 14
Motor Coaches 480, 485
Monuments 280, 453
Moving Pictures 316, 491
Musical Societies 64, 154, 194

Newspapers, 151, 166, 318, 373, 399, 419, 471
North Uxbridge Secession 270
Northbridge 33
Nurses 401, 440, 446

Old Home Week 346
Orchestras 290, 457

Parking 475
Parks 402
Patriot's Day 247
Pay Day 262
Police 241, 448, 482
Polls 105

Ponds....8, 435
Population, 5, 93, 267, 298, 360, 396, 444, 484
Postmasters....86, 245
Post Offices...30, 65, 86, 121, 199, 257
Power Stations.
(See Electric Companies.)
Primaries.... 367
Proprietors' Records.... 286
Providence & Worcester R. R., 114, 185

Quakers....6, 28, 31

Red Cross.... 406
Red Cross Seals.... 359
Republican Victory.... 214
Revolutionary War, 34-40, 42, 43, 45, 52
Rich Men.... 120
Rivers—
Blackstone....1, 85
Mumford....7, 71
Roller Skating.... 198

Scholarship.... 279
School Children....291, 390
Schools—
Cadets.... 398
Commercial Course.... 340
Domestic Science.... 458
Drawing.... 264
Funds....17, 22, 335, 342
Gardens.... 375
High, 129, 142, 176, 229, 237, 365, 410
Houses, 20, 61, 131, 197, 203, 209, 294, 369, 378, 380, 395, 467
Magazines.... 426
Masters.... 17
Manual Training.... 458
Music....281, 457
Nurse....440, 446
Physicians.... 376
Private....79, 92, 97, 100, 106, 276
Public, 17, 22, 26, 54, 57, 96, 144, 291, 390
Savings Systems....343, 470
Superintendents...208, 219, 238, 301
Seances.... 150
Separation of Church and Town.... 60
Shay's Rebellion.... 53
Shoe Business.... 109
Shuttle Shop....70, 253, 305, 315
Sidewalks....190, 244, 259, 312, 391
Silver Mine.... 103
Snow Plow.... 472
Societies—
American Legion.... 436
American Legion Auxillary.... 438
Christian and Sanitary.... 134
Composite Club.... 284
D. A. R....29, 287, 320, 357, 368
Eastern Star.... 338
Father Mathew's.... 224
Father Mathew's Aid.... 397
Foresters.... 210
G. A. R....143, 479
Grange.... 300
Hibernians.... 174
Inter-Church Council.... 491
Isabellas.... 413
K. of C.... 362
Ladies' Association.... 101
Laurel Brook Club.... 350
Library Literary Club.... 336
Macomber Association.... 265
Mass. Volunteers' Aid Association, 278
Masons.... 76
Mendon Historical.... 269
Odd Fellows....113, 115
Pocahontas.... 445
Polish Workers Sick Mutual Aid Association.... 459
Rebekahs.... 437
Red Cross.... 406
Red Men.... 405
Rotary Club.... 488
Samaritan.... 308
Sons of Veterans.... 206
Teachers' Association.... 465
Tourists.... 189
W. C. T. U....165, 228
Woman's Relief Corps.... 232
Workmen.... 261

Spanish War 277, 278
Stage Coaches 68, 141
Starlings 381
State Guard 408
Stocks 16
Street Lighting, 162, 213, 216, 220, 358, 388, 466, 493
Street List 455
Street Railways, 302, 309, 313, 351, 363, 374
Street Sprinkling 217, 354
Sunday Law 266

Taft Family 1, 158, 353
Taft, William H 353
Taft's Block 110, 192, 272, 304
Telegraph 122
Telephone, 211, 246, 260, 283, 303, 337 345, 494,
Textile Machinery. (See Machinery.)
Thayer Memorial Building 249
Theatre 492
Tomb 130
Tories 41
Town Farm, 27, 104, 111, 112, 116, 289, 474
Town Hall 168
Town Meetings 4, 12
Tractor 464
Tramps 241, 255, 328
Trees . . . 108, 178, 296, 371, 372, 450, 486
Trolley Freight 374

Valuation 105, 346, 483
Voting Precincts 449

Upton 18

War Funds 429
Water Company 170, 181, 188, 223
Water Works, 223, 248, 256, 273, 311, 321, 323, 327, 334, 462
Washington, George 55
Watering Trough 377
Wilson, Levi P 164, 182, 186, 193
World War, 403, 404, 412, 415, 416, 420, 423, 428